Chickasaw Times

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Priorities set for programs and services

Hundreds of Chickasaws at Listening Conference

Governor Anoatubby presents master of ceremonies Danny Hillard a Pendleton blanket in appreciation for his work at the Listening Conference.

Hundreds of Chickasaws from across the United States joined together at the tribal Listening Conference Feb. 12-14 to offer their input and ideas on expanding the level of services offered to those living outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation.

Participant comments about the conference were overwhelmingly positive.

"This was an excellent conference," said Carloyn Mendoza of Oklahoma City, who added she thought it gave participants a real opportunity to be heard.

"I was really impressed to see the positive attitude of people at the listening conference," said Jerod Tate of Longmont, Colorado. "Everyone I talked with had good things to say about it."

Many deemed the conference "an unqualified success."

Others indicated they believed this was truly a historic opportunity to work with other Chickasaws and voice opinions in a way that could impact tribal policies for years to come.

"We heard a great number of excellent ideas from Chickasaws attending the conference," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. "Some of those were new ideas and others that had already been suggested.

"Citizens at the conference not only added to the list of services we may choose to offer, they also helped affirm that many of the ideas already being considered are also very high on their list of priorities."

Participants worked diligently in focus groups concentrating on ways to improve health, education, aging and housing services.

Facilitator Gail Marshall, who has led a number of similar exercises for groups across the United States, said she had never seen a harder working group.

In order to generate input from a wide variety of participants, four independent groups each met in separate sessions to discuss each of the four service areas.

Each group took part in brainstorming sessions which produced dozens of innovative ideas which were then analyzed, prioritized and forwarded to the appropriate tribal administrators.

While the major emphasis of the conference was to gather input and ideas in order to effectively design programs and services to meet the needs of Chickasaw living outside the jurisdictional boundaries, the conference became much more.

Participants at the conference seemed to share the spirit embodied by President Kennedy's famous line "ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

Many of those in attendance offered their expertise, knowledge and assistance to advance the priorities expressed in the sessions.

"I would be happy to help distribute information to people in my area," said Joyce Herrington, of Spiceland, Texas.

"It was truly a heartwarming experience to see and hear so many Chickasaws willingly offer to help their fellow citizens," said Gov. Anoatubby. "One of the most refreshing and encouraging things we heard at the listening conference was the question 'what can we do to help?'

"The attitudes of brotherhood and kindness exhibited by participants inspired tremendous pride in everyone associated with the event."

A sense of community permeated the event as citizens from Oklahoma, Texas, California, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon and other states across the United States came together with the common goal of improving life for all Chickasaws.

Several participants expressed a desire to join or form community councils so they could continue the work begun at the conference.

For information on community councils near you or services available to Chickasaws living outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation, call 1-866-466-1481.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Listening Conference priority list

Participants at the listening conference developed a list of the top five priorities for aging, education, health care and housing services they would like to see offered to citizens living outside the Chickasaw Nation jurisdictional boundaries.

Below is the list of priorities developed by participants.

HOUSING
1. Home improvement programs
2. Home loans – low interest
3. Assisted living
4. Affordable housing insurance
5. Utility assistance

EDUCATION
1. Education available for all
2. Access to program information
3. Computers for students
4. Aide for adult education
5. Vocational Training

HEALTH CARE
1. Prescription drugs
2. Health care
3. Health insurance
4. Eye care

AGING
1. Burial assistance
2. Home health assistance
3. Prescription assistance
4. Communication of information

Listening conference participants discussed a number of new ideas for improving services.

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CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
David Stout Building
Ada, Oklahoma
January 20, 2006

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Scott Colbert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus (Late arrival; 9:02 a.m.), Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: James A. Humes, Melvin Stoner, Kathleen Stoner, Ron Jarome, Wayne Scribner, Sue Simmons, Wilma Watson, Mike Watson, Sharon Nelson, Wes Brantley, Kerri McDonald, Ron Frazier, Robyn Elliott, George Jesse, Jessie Kemp, Deanna Kendall, Neal McCaleb

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - December 16, 2005, December 1, 2005

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to approve the December 16, 2005 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Goforth Parker.

Members voting yes:

Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2005 carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to approve the December 1, 2005 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Green.

Members voting yes:

Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2005 carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(A) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 23-029, Tribute to Legislator Mitch Sperry

This resolution recognizes and acknowledges with great appreciation and admiration the loyalty and dedication of our colleague Legislator Mitch Sperry for the enrichment and betterment of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, Chickasaw citizens and Indian people.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to approve GR23-029. The motion was seconded by Dr. Goforth Parker.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR23-029 carried unanimously.

Mr. Woods concluded his report.

(B)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 23-032, Approval of Development Budget Amendment

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for the CNHS Master Plan, Project Number CNHS-1001, in the amount of $135,000,000.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to approve GR23-032. The motion was seconded by Ms. Green.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker,
Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright,
Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR23-032 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 23-034, Budget Modification for the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission

This resolution approves the modification to the current fiscal year budget of the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission as submitted by Governor Bill Anoatubby. It increases the budget of the commission by $21,767 to pay the costs of a special election to fill a vacancy in the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature. The vacancy creates an emergency.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to approve GR23-034. The motion was seconded by Dr. Goforth Parker.

Members voting yes:

Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR23-034 carried unanimously.

Ms. Briggs Concluded her report.

(C) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Dean McManus

No report.

(D) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Judy Goforth Parker

Dr. Goforth Parker noted the information requested by the committee through the Freedom of Information Act was received and provided to Legislative members. She announced she has been receiving positive comments regarding the purchased of the Burney Institute.

(E) EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Wanda Blackwood Scott

General Resolution Number 23-033, Authorization to Fund a Clothing Grant Program within the Department of Youth Services

This resolution authorizes the use of tribal funds for the establishment of a clothing grant program for all Chickasaw children ages 3 through 18. Direct services in the amount of $1,480,000 will provide $200 per child per school year and $120,904 will go toward the operation of this program within the Department of Youth Services.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs to approve GR23-033. The motion was seconded by Ms. Green.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR23-033 carried unanimously.

Ms. Wanda Blackwood Scott concluded her report.

(F) HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Mary Jo Green

General Resolution Number 23-031, Resolution in Support of the Special Diabetes Prevention Program

This resolution pledges the support of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature for the Special Diabetes Prevention Program. It states a request for all Chickasaw citizens and other American Indians living within the Chickasaw Nation and the service area of the Chickasaw Nation Health System to volunteer and be a participant in the Program. Further, this resolution asks all leaders within the Chickasaw Nation to take an active role in educating all people, and that they demonstrate a healthy lifestyle by becoming active and moving forward to put all people in motion in all communities throughout the Chickasaw Nation.

A motion was made by Ms. Green to approve GR23-031. The motion was seconded

*See **Minutes,** page 35*

Bill Anoatubby
Governor

Jefferson Keel
Lt. Governor

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the *Chickasaw Times*. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.

Deadline for submission is the 22nd of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Conference reinforces importance of listening

By BILL ANOATUBBY
Governor
Chickasaw Nation

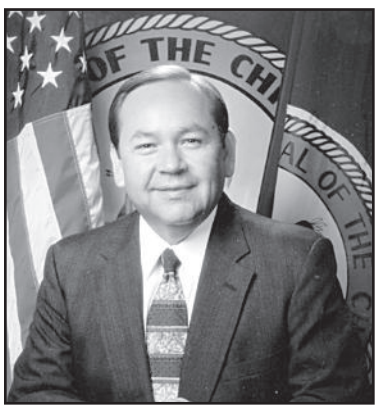
A very special thank you to all Chickasaws who invested the time and energy to attend the recent tribal Listening Conference in Oklahoma City. You may not realize it, but you have had a deep, lasting and positive impact on your tribal government.

Chickasaws from across the country traveled to Oklahoma City in February to share their thoughts, their concerns, their successes and their opinions with those of us who serve all Chickasaws in tribal government. What a wonderful gathering! We learned so much from Chickasaws who participated fully in the sessions and helped all of us gain a better understanding of the people we serve every day.

The Listening Conference was exactly that – an opportunity for me and many of your tribal administrators, directors and workers to listen to the thoughtful words of our fellow Chickasaws.

We were gratified to host such a tremendous gathering of Chickasaws, and to discover much about what we can do to better serve all Chickasaw people.

We had to practice and develop our listening skills in advance of this special conference. It may seem a simple process to simply listen to people, but there is actually much more to listening than simply not speaking. We learned that listening is a skill that requires us to open our minds and truly consider what is being said. To effectively listen, we must not mentally race ahead to another topic, but fully focus on the topic at hand and allow our minds to understand and process the information.



Gov. Bill Anoatubby

There is an organization, formed in 1979, that is dedicated solely to the art and science of listening. The International Listening Association understands that real listening is a skill that must be developed and nurtured. The association's mission is "to promote the skills, development and teaching of listening and the promotion of effective listening skills and techniques."

After participating in the Listening Conference, it is very clear to me how such an association might come into being. Effective listening can produce entirely new perspectives on subjects of all kinds.

The late American poet Alice Duer Miller said, "Listening is more than merely not talking – it means taking a vigorous, human interest in what is being told to us."

These are excellent words that very much relate to our experience at the Listening Conference. To truly hear another's thoughts, the listener must be actively engaged and interested. We worked very hard to be good "listening partners" during the conference.

I have committed $10 million to assist in developing programs that will benefit Chickasaws who live outside our tribal boundaries. The ideas produced at the conference will help us tremendously as we invest these resources in Chickasaw families and their futures.

Thanks again to each of you who attended, and those of you who sent along messages. Your commitment to your tribe is very much appreciated. I am so proud of all the Chickasaws who shared their thoughts with me, and I am honored to have been the "head listener" at this groundbreaking event.

I look forward to more events like the Listening Conference in the future. You have allowed me the privilege of serving as your Governor for the past 18 years, and each day is a good one when Chickasaw people can participate energetically and passionately in their tribal government.

Health System Employee, Team of the Year chosen

In February the Chickasaw Nation Health System announced its 2005 Employee of the Year and 2005 Team of the Year during an awards ceremony at Carl Albert Health Facility in Ada.

The award recipients were selected from a list of the year's monthly winners. The Employee of the Year award was presented to Durant Clinic Nurse Manager Deb Smith, RN.

According to Chickasaw Nation Health System Customer Relations Director Debbie Jackson, Deb Smith "does a tremendous job in assisting the providers and staff and in working with the patients. She is always kind, compassionate and willing to go the extra mile to help someone in need.

"Deb also works with the difficult and stressful situations that we all must go through at times, but she handles each situation with professionalism, dignity and grace. I have certainly appreciated her assistance many times in the past with situations, and always found her to be friendly and helpful."

The Team of the Year award was presented to the Carl Albert Medical/Surgical Unit Nursing Staff.

In a letter sent to the hospital administrator, the writer stated, "We just wanted to let you know that the Med/Surgery staff was just excellent. These nurses and nurse aides that had our family member as their patient were very polite, caring and thoughtful ladies. We were all so very impressed with their caring attitudes.

"I know a lot of people would say that it was just part of their job, but we feel they went beyond that. They made what turned out to be our last time with our family member comforting (by) all the kindness they showed us. This (letter) is just one way we can express our thanks to them by letting their administrator know. You should be very proud that this hospital has (this) kind of employees."

Jackson added, "This letter said everything about our great nursing staff."

Chickasaw Nation Health System Chief Operating Officer Sandi Sanders presents the 2005 Employee of the Year plaque to Deb Smith, RN, of the Durant Health Clinic.

Other Employee of the Year nominees included:

- Lea Caufield – Diabetes Center
- Ronnie Fondren – Clinical Applications
- Tawni Gibson – Dietary Services
- Neva Harjochee – Nutrition Services
- Vivian Herr – Utilization Management
- Penny Isham – Housekeeping
- Richard Roland – Carl Albert Maintenance
- Debbie Sanford, RN – Emergency Room
- Miranda Seal – Audiology
- Dr. Tonie Waller – Carl Albert Dental
- Joni Wellington, RN – Utilization Management

Other Team of the Year nominees included:

- Carl Albert Maintenance
- Carl Albert Radiology
- Carl Albert Volunteers
- Family Practice Clinic Laboratory
- Health Information Management Coders
- Infection Control
- NARCH (Native American Research Centers for Health)
- Tishomingo Health Clinic Pharmacy

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Health System Chief Operating Officer Sandi Sanders presents the 2005 Team of the Year plaque to Medical/Surgical Unit Nurses Kathryn Walck, Toni Wiseman, Alicia Boatwright, Ralania Alspaugh, Kelli Ludlow and Sheila Harjo.

Listening Conference brings Chickasaws together

Mary Jo Green
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee!

I have just returned from our first ever Listening Conference where Chickasaws from all across our great land came to talk and work together regarding the five most needed services outside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. I met so many wonderful Chickasaws who made me proud to be a part of our great Nation. Each and every one I met and listened to touched my heart. They all felt like family members by Tuesday when I left.

They were indeed a large family who worked hard to give us information regarding the needs of all Chickasaws who live outside the boundaries. My sincere wish was that they be blessed with a safe journey home and that we can expand our services to each of them and all Chickasaws wherever you live in this great country.

Kudos to all the Chickasaw Students of the Month. You worked hard for those good grades. Kudos also to the Living History Players who so ably entertained us at the Listening Conference and taught us about our history. Those Players are: Brandon Blankenship and Kate Duty (who are also in the Children's Choir), Jeremy Wallace, Stoney Stepps, Rick Miller, Kyra Childers, Pamela Aguilar, Steve Jacobs, Brittney trail and Robert Cheadle. Chukmoski!!

I've promised you that I would again give you the statistics from the Health System so here they are: In the month of January, 2006, there were 236 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 15,869. January Emergency Room visits were 1,106. January saw 246 surgeries and the Sameday Clinic saw 2,986 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,911 patients in January. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,437 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,593. The Durant Clinic saw 2,795 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 998.

Until next month, may you each enjoy good health. I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.

Careful listening will pay off in great programs

Linda Briggs
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hi, Everybody!

Last week was an extraordinary week in the lives of Chickasaw Legislators. Last week for three days the entire Legislature attended a Listening Conference in Oklahoma City, which was held for our citizens who live outside the boundaries of the Nation. The plan was devised in the Governor's Office and it was truly a remarkable undertaking. The Governor and many of the department heads from the Nation were in attendance for the entire conference.

First of all, the nature of most legislators is not especially to be as much a "listener" (without responding) as it is to be a responder to questions asked of us. This was a completely different format with the citizens in attendance being divided into four different groups and then wearing color coded tags to advise which group they would attend in. Legislators were advised to move from group to group so that we also attended all four of the different sessions being presented, which were Education, Health, Elders and Housing. The big difference from what we usually experience was that the sessions were held for the citizens to input, plan, format, prioritize and advise individually and collectively how they felt about the issues.

And we were to LISTEN, carefully and with full attention! The sessions were very ably conducted by professional mediators and were enormously interesting. Also, it was enormously difficult for us not to "talk" but we were there to LISTEN and hear the collective voice of our citizens living outside the boundaries.

YOU, the citizens who live outside the boundaries, were well represented. Many excellent ideas were brought to the forefront. The primary consideration and wish seemed to be healthcare and it is our understanding that the Administration is already at work planning on ways to implement many of the wishes expressed in the conference. A great new day is, I believe, dawning for our citizens who live outside the Nation. Overall it was an awesome event and it was a great pleasure to meet so many interesting people from all over the United States. Approximately 500 were in attendance.

And back at home progress continues. The plan to build a large citizen complex at Duncan/Marlow and another in the area of the Enos community were approved by the Legislature in Session last Friday. Also, other noteworthy property acquisitions were approved, all of which enhance the plans and stability of our great Nation. What a great gift it is to be a Chickasaw!

All of you take care-try to avoid the flu presently making the rounds! And may all of you be richly blessed!

Linda Briggs

2004-2005 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Holly Easterling
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   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4002
   hollye@cableone.net
2. Judy Parker
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5. Mary Jo Green
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   (580) 332-2394

Pickens District
Seat #

1. Wilson Seawright
   P.O. Box 83
   Ardmore, OK 73401
   (580) 223-3358
2.
3. Linda Briggs
   400 NW 4th
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 276-3493
4. Wanda Blackwood Scott
   Route 1, Box 42
   Elmore City, OK 73433
   (580) 788-4730
   scottdes@telepath.com

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. D. Scott Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3960
2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 993-2818
3. Steven Woods
   Route 1, Box 430A
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3523

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
   Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 283-3409

Fire fighters experience Chickasaw hospitality

Dr. Judy Goforth Parker
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Greetings from the great Chickasaw Nation. As Governor Anoatubby says, the unconquered and unconquerable. He also says that we are known for our dynamic women. I spent the evening with some of those dynamic women just this evening as they served meals to the fire fighters. Fire fighters from as far away as South Dakota are stationed here to help in battling the winter fires brought on by the dry conditions. Legislators Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, and Dean McManus were also in attendance. Some of our senior women have regularly fed the fire fighters as they are stationed here. We should be proud. This is a part of Chickasaw culture - to give and support others.

In attending the Listening Conference, one of my friends, Gayle Marshall, was facilitating the conference. Gayle commended us for being the first tribe to be holding a conference of this nature. Gayle predicts that other tribes will be coming to us for advice on an event like our Listening Conference. I would have to agree.

I have had a recent experience of visitng with relatives from Florida whom I have not met. We are beginning to work on the Goforth family tree. If you are a Goforth and have information to offer, please feel free to email at jparker@mailclerk.ecok.edu. Rediscovering our past can be a fun project and we need your help.

I would like to report that the Land Committee is one of the busiest of the Legislature. You can be watching for a mid-year report in April. We have some exciting developments that I will be sharing with you.

I have to talk about one young Chickasaw woman that you do not know. She is my daugher, Mahate. Mahate has been admitted to medical school in the INMED program at the University of North Dakota. INMED is for Indians into Medicine. As you might well imagine, we are very excited about this accomplishment. It is gratifying to know that we have another Native American young woman entering the field of medicine, and her desire is to come back and serve the Chickasaw Nation right here in Ada.

One more event that I will be reporting on in the future is a conference in Mexico set up by the Mexican, Canadian, and United States governments to look at interventions for the problem of diabetes in Indian country. I am a part of a 15-person panel that will be talking about the problems as well as some of our solutions. I hope to share information with you on the outcomes of this conference.

Well, as always, it is refreshing to share a few thoughts with you. Be safe, and as I always tell my students, sleep, eat well, and wear your seat belts. That is how you say, I care.

Your Legislator, Judy Goforth Parker, PhD, RN
jparker@mailclerk.ecok.edu

Committee Reports

Education Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Wanda Blackwood Scott, Beth Alexander, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Mooniene Ogee, Wilson Seawright
Absent: Scott Colbert

Election Rules & Regulations Ad Hoc Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Beth Alexander, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods, Wanda Blackwood Scott
Absent: Tim Colbert, Scott Colbert

Finance Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Linda Briggs, Holly Easterling, Judy Goforth Parker, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert
Absent: Dean McManus

Health Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Mary Jo Green, Beth Alexander, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Linda Briggs
Absent: Tim Colbert, Dean McManus, Scott Colbert

Human Resources Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Mooniene Ogee
Absent: Dean McManus, Scott Colbert

Land Development Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Judy Goforth Parker, Beth Alexander, Mary Jo Green, Steve Woods
Absent: Scott Colbert

Legislative Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods
Absent: Tim Colbert, Dean McManus, Scott Colbert

Tribal Historic & Cultural Preservation Committee
Feb. 6, 2006
Present: Wilson Seawright, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Scott Colbert
Absent: Tim Colbert, Dean McManus

Gathering feels much like a family reunion

Holly Easterling
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello, fellow Chickasaws everywhere!

I am still smiling thinking about the recent historical listening conference in Oklahoma City. It was a real pleasure for me to get to meet Chickasaw citizens of every age and from all over the United States. I thank you for your participation if you were able to join us.

What was really incredible was the "feel" of the gathering. It felt to me like more of a family reunion than a tribally-sponsored event.

But as far as the event, the break-out sessions were vibrant and alive with good discussion, great ideas, valid concerns, and lots of questions. Every question was heard, recorded and will be answered. Because it was a "listening conference," the role of tribal administrators, staff and all elected officials was to truly listen with the intent of coming away with a better understanding of the needs of Chickasaw citizens who live outside the tribal boundaries. The sessions I attended allowed me to do just that.

I am anxious for the tabulation of the input from every session and the ensuing analysis and work to expand or implement new programs and services that Chickasaws everywhere are able to access. It was awesome to see new friendships being made, information being shared and in many cases, people being told there was already a program or service to help them with a current need.

Thank you, Governor Anoatubby and the Executive Department for the vision, planning and successful execution of this historic Chickasaw gathering!

Great response to clothing grant program

Wanda Blackwood Scott
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

It has been very gratifying to see the very good initial response to our new program which provides school clothes for Chickasaw primary and secondary students.

This new program, ushered in with a general resolution initiated in the education committee, provides a $200 Visa debit card for Chickasaw students ages three through 18. This clothing grant program is designed to assist Chickasaw children regardless of where they live.

Children who hold a Chickasaw citizenship card, or Chickasaw citizenship certificate (for kids under 12) are eligible. Restrictions are few and the program is designed to help the most kids possible. For more information, contact the division of Youth and Family Services at (580) 310-6620.

A great big "thank you" goes out to our wonderful Chickasaw firefighters. These brave firefighters were a great help in controlling the recent fires around Elmore City. Our weather has been so dry, and the Elmore City Volunteer Fire Department has had many calls this year. Thank you, Chickasaw firefighters, for all your much-needed and timely assistance.

Lastly, I am seeking information about a Chickasaw baseball team that at one time played an exhibition game against the New York Yankees. Please let me know if you have any information on this team.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

February 2006 Resolutions

General Resolution Number 23-035

Approval of Development Budget Amendment

Explanation: Enos Community Center: There is no building available to us in the area that would be suitable for this need. The new building will enable the citizens in the area to hold meetings and events, gather for social and educational purposes, and will enhance their overall quality of life.

Duncan Senior Nutrition Site: There is a need for a facility to serve our citizens in the

Duncan and Marlow Area. Presently services are being provided in this region on an intermittent and temporary basis. The partial services that are now being provided are limited to occasional use of a local business's facility. Even these partial services are being utilized by 30-50 people, so the need for full time facilities does exist. No building in our existing inventory would be suitable for this need.

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget in the amount of

$1,391,468 for the construction of the Enos Community Center and $1,351,047 for the construction of the Duncan Senior Nutrition Site.

Requested by: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented by: Linda Briggs, Chairman Finance Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-036

Authorization for ANA Grant Application

Chickasaw Language Planning Grant

Explanation: This resolution authorizes the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation to submit a grant to ANA to plan, design, and implement a master-apprentice Chickasaw language program with the intent of increasing the number of fluent Chickasaw language speakers.

Requested by: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented by: Dean McManus, Chairman

Tribal Historical and Cultural Preservation Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-037

Authorization of the Wildland Fire Management Plan

and Wildland Fire Prevention Plan

EXPLANATION: This resolution approves the Wildland Fire Management Plan and Wildland Fire Prevention Plan covering restricted and trust properties within the Chickasaw Nation. The Fire Management Plan provides protection of life and resources, and the Wildland Fire Prevention Plan analyzes fire occurrences.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-038

Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Marshall County

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property, in Marshall County, Oklahoma, described as:

The Northwest Quarter of Lot 4, Section 2, Township 7 South, Range 5 East, Indian Base and Meridian, Marshall County, Oklahoma, containing 10.03 acres. The North 30 feet and the South 25 feet are reserved for a road and utility easement together with all improvements thereon, if any, in their present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Property Location: Located 5 miles North of the center of City of Enos, Oklahoma on Highway 70F on the east side of the road.

Use: To be utilized as the Enos Community Center.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor The Chickasaw Nation

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution 23-039

Affirming General Resolution

(Authorizing an Acquisition of Property in Pontotoc County)

Explanation: This resolution affirms General Resolution 23-023 for the purpose of specifically identifying the complete legal description as described as follows: A part of the N/2 of the SE/4 pf the NW/4 of Section 28, Township 4 North, Range 6 East, Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point 80 feet South of the Northeast corner of said N/2 of SE/4 of NW/4; thence West a distance of 242.2 feet; thence South a distance of 40 feet; thence West a distance of 537.23 feet; thence South a distance of 209.44 feet; thence East a distance of 779.18 feet; thence North a distance of 248.59 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.02 acres, more or less, and hereby affirms General Resolution 23-023, previously approved on December 16, 2005.

Requested by: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented by: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman

Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-040

Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Murray County

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property, in Sulphur, Murray County, Oklahoma, described as: SURFACE RIGHTS ONLY; The West 52 feet of Lots 11, 12, and 13, Block 155, AND The West 25 feet of the East 50 feet and the West 23 feet of the East 73 feet of Lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 155, AND Lot 14 and the South 20 feet of Lot 15, Block 155, all in the City of Sulphur, Murray County, Oklahoma, together with all improvements thereon, if any, in their present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor The Chickasaw Nation

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

No votes: Beth Alexander, Mooniene Ogee

General Resolution Number 23-041

Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Murray County

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property, in Sulphur, Murray County, Oklahoma, described as: SURFACE RIGHTS ONLY; Lot 2 & East 20' of Lot 3, Block 150, AND Lots 1 - 4, Block 176, AND Lots12 & 13, Block 176, all in the City of Sulphur, Murray County, together with all improvements thereon, if any, in their present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor The Chickasaw Nation

Presented By: Dr. Judy Goforth Parker, Chairperson Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

No votes: Beth Alexander, Mooniene Ogee

General Resolution Number 23-042

Oil and Gas Lease in Marshall County

(Tract 87)

EXPLANATION: This resolution approves an Oil and Gas Lease in favor of Chaparral Energy, LLC, who submitted an acceptable bid of $125.00 per acre for a total bonus of $312.50, of which the Chickasaw Nation shall receive $78.13, on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations described as NW/4 NW/4 NE/4 NE/4 of Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 3 East, Marshall County, Oklahoma, containing 2.5 acres, more or less, for a primary term of three (3) years with a $3.00 per acre annual rental for a total of $7.50, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $1.87 per annum, and a royalty rate of 18.75%.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-043

Oil and Gas Lease in Pittsburg County

(Tract 107)

EXPLANATION: This resolution approves an Oil and Gas Lease in favor of Chesapeake

Exploration Partnership, P.O. Box 18496, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73154-0496, who

submitted an acceptable bid of $827.16 per acre for a total bonus of $132,345.60, of which the Chickasaw Nation shall receive $33,086.40 on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations described as NE/4 of Section 23, Township 6 North, Range 14 East, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, containing 160.00 acres, more or less, for a primary term of three (3) years with a $3.00 per acre annual rental for a total of $480.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $120.00 per annum, and a royalty rate of 18.75%.

*See **Resolutions,** page 35*

Peacemaking efforts offer alternative form of resolution

Barbara Smith
Supreme Court Justice

A year or so ago I wrote to you about my nephew, Samuel Smith, sitting around a table, working on carving his flute with a group of adults at the Oklahoma City Community Council. Samuel sat quietly and worked on his flute as everyone chatted and told stories of their families and their experiences. On the drive home, Samuel told me that was his favorite part of the evening.

Each night as we worked, I noticed the calm and peacefulness of the talk. No one had an agenda. No one needed to be the leader of the conversation. Everyone was equal in status, even an 11-year-old-boy among adults of all ages. We sat in a circle working, talking, and listening. The peacefulness of those times was healing for our hearts and spirits, even if only for those moments. Whenever I am in a talking circle with our Chickasaw Peacemakers, I shift back into that calmness of purpose and remember the peacefulness of sharing our stories.

This past year as I have traveled with our Chickasaw Peacemakers, we have had opportunities to gather in talking circles with many people. Each time I am reminded of the beautiful nights with the flute-makers of the Oklahoma City Community Council and the peacefulness the talk brings us. For those of you who have shared with us, we thank you. You have enhanced our lives with your stories.

The Peacemakers have held many talking circles this past year to help people resolve some of their disputes. The circles have been by request of the parties and have given people an opportunity to tell their stories in a safe place without fear of criticism and judgment. This also gave them a chance to learn how to be a part of a talking circle and to learn how to listen to others as well as how to tell their own story. Some of the areas we are hopeful Peacemaking will be helpful in are areas concerning families, such as divorce, custody and visitation, as well as juvenile problems. We have also seen success with grandparent issues and guardianships.

Children issues are long-term and are most healing when the focus is on the children and not the adults. Talking circles can help people learn to talk things out and to listen to one another without reprisal. This also allows for the children to be a part of the circle and the talk. Many times we adults forget to listen to the stories and the talk of the children. Telling one's story is healing for the soul. We don't always take the time to listen to a child's story. There is no greater healing of a family than listening to a child's perspective. It is healing for the child and healing for the family. Our hope is to teach people how to be a part of a talking circle with calmness and peacefulness in their lives. Peace should become a tool for life's journey, not an unattainable destination.

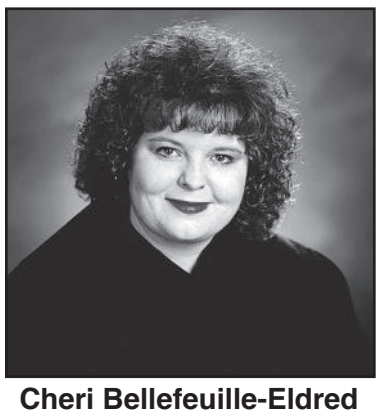
The Peacemakers and I traveled to Wisconsin in October for Peacemaking training at the Mohican Nation. We met in a giant talking circle with Peacemakers from many different tribes including Mohican, Oneida, Navajo, Menominee, Laq du Flambeau, Ho Chunk, to name of few. We, also, had the opportunity to meet Phil Bluehouse, Navajo, who was instrumental in establishing the Peacemaking process of the Navajo Nation in 1986,

As we meet Peacemakers from many places, we are reminded how we, as tribal people, are all working to return to resolving conflicts with healing and hope as a goal for our communities. Sitting in a circle, or around a table, or around a fire, telling our stories and talking things out will always be a time for healing if we learn to listen with patience and respect. The Peacemakers have been learning how to help people to that end.

If you would like to learn more about Peacemaking and talking circles or if you would like to schedule a time with a Peacemaker to help resolve a dispute, please contact Jason Burwell, Supreme Court Clerk, at 580-235-0282.

Front row from left, Peacemaker Don Moody, Special Judge of the District Court Dustin Rowe, and Peacemaker Smith Cole. Back row from left, Supreme Court Clerk Jason Burwell, Peacemaker Kathi Trent and Justice Barbara Smith.

Listening conference testament to strong Chickasaw spirit



Cheri Bellefeuille-Eldred
Supreme Court Justice

Hello and greetings from Supreme Court Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Eldred. I am excited about the opportunities for continued growth in 2006. We continue to meet the legal needs of the Chickasaw Citizens and Native Americans with the use of the court system of the Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court, District Court and Peacemaking Court.

To effectively and efficiently address the increased caseload at the District Court, the Supreme Court Justices hired a Special Judge, Dustin P. Rowe. Special Judge Rowe is a Chickasaw citizen and a licensed attorney. Special Judge Rowe has worked with the Judicial Branch since 2004 as a court advocate and has proven to be an invaluable asset. Special Judge Rowe continues to hear cases each Thursday.

The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association has grown to 82 members. If you would like an application to join the Chickasaw Bar Association, please contact Jason Burwell at: (580) 235-0281 or log on to www.chickasaw.net and click on the "Judicial" link for more information and an application.

Thank you to the Chickasaw Nation Planning department for their extraordinary efforts in assisting us with a grant application to better enhance the court system. Justice Barbara A. Smith worked closely with Michelle Palmer, Grant Planner, to put together the information for the grant application. It will be later in 2006, when the recipients will be notified of the grant award.

It was a privilege to attend the Listening Conference banquet on February 13, 2006 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Chickasaws traveled from as far as California and New York. This attests to the strong spirit of the Chickasaw people who will always come together in support of their culture, traditions and Nation. The Chickasaw Living History Players performed several vignettes. I was very moved by the cast and the stories that were told. The Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe performed as well. The Dance Troupe danced the Friendship Dance and Stomp Dance and the Stealing Partners Dance. Each dance was announced and a history was given of each dance and the audience was encouraged to participate with the dance troupe. The dancers represent the Nation by sharing the Chickasaw traditions. The Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe are available, to schedule them contact the dance troupe coordinator, (580) 332-8685. It was a wonderful gathering of Chickasaw people, an evening filled with laughter and pride in being a Chickasaw.

The Chickasaw Supreme Court hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you have questions about the courts contact Connie Tillery, (580) 235-0281.

May you be blessed in your life and God Bless the Chickasaw Nation. Until next month, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Chickasaw people.

Chickasaw teens selected for Executive Youth Council

Thirteen teens were inaugurated into the Chickasaw Nation Executive Youth Council recently at a ceremony and luncheon in Davis, Oklahoma.

Council members are elected by their peers to serve as representatives of their districts throughout the year. After presentation of a certificate presentation by Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family Services Division Administrator Jay Keel, the group was sworn in by Chickasaw Nation Judge Aaron Duck.

"This is a great example of some of our best youth leaders," Governor Anoatubby said. "We are proud to have these young people represent us in their schools and communities."

Each member signed a pledge to stay drug and alcohol free as they serve on the executive youth council.

Those inaugurated include:

From Panola District
- Erica McMillian
- Tia Wines(unable to attend)

From Pickens District
- Laura Ash
- Brittany McLaury
- Jarod Ray
- Misha Harris(unable to attend)

From Pontotoc District
- Nikki Miller
- Jonah Puller
- Brandon Blankenship (unable to attend)
- Megan Foley (unable to attend)

From Tishomingo District
- Jerica Marsh
- Jared Wingo
- Brett Knight (unable to attend)

Executive Youth Council Inauguration Ceremony participants included, front row from left, Jarod Ray, Brittany McLaury, Jared Wingo, Jerica Marsh and Nikki Miller. Back row from left, Governor Bill Anoatubby, Erica McMillan, Jonah Puller, Laura Ash, Division Administrator Jay Keel and Youth Specialist Toni Pace. *Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.*

Business performance continues to show good growth curve

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and the tribe's BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Chickasaw Enterprises. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of the tribal operation, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Businesses revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes, sales revenue at convenience, travel plazas and tobacco stores, rent and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the election commission, maintenance and operations of tribal property, *Chickasaw Times* and governor's and lt. governor's offices. Expenditure for education includes education scholarship as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include senior citizens sites, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Depreciation has not been computed on the Fixed Assets of the governmental funds for the current year. Depreciation will be computed after year end in connection with the audit.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending January 31, 2006

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations totaled $4.3 million for the month and $33.6 million year-to-date. Expenditures for the month were $3.3 million and $9.6 year-to-date. There has been a total, beginning in fiscal year 2005, of $49 million transferred from the businesses that were reserved for capital projects.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes for January totaled $48 million and $185 million year-to-date. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $64.4 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $23.8 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At January 31, 2006, the tribal government funds had $49 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $9.3 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $99 million in cash and investments of which $71 million is reserved for accounts payable and $30 million is reserved for reinvestment in present and new businesses.

As of January 31, 2006, tribe operations, excluding federal program funding, had assets totaling $498 million with $71 million in payables resulting in net assets of $427 million compared to $391 million at the beginning of fiscal year 2006 or an increase of $36 million for the period then ended.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Four Months Ended January 31, 2006

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	833,615	185,237,448	186,071,063
Transfers from businesses to tribal government		33,635,162	(33,635,162)	-
Total funds available		34,468,777	151,602,286	186,071,063
Expenditures				
General government		2,386,161		2,386,161
Legislature		426,053		426,053
Judiciary		372,454		372,454
Education		1,648,115		1,648,115
Heritage Preservation		456,360		456,360
Health		1,968,136		1,968,136
Youth and Family Services		761,574		761,574
Nutrition Programs		586,955		586,955
Regulatory		464,190		464,190
Assistance Programs		600,423		600,423
Transfer to Loan Program		-		-
Gaming expense			65,110,596	65,110,596
Other businesses' expense			62,674,752	62,674,752
Total expenditures		9,670,421	127,785,348	137,455,769
Increase in net assets		24,798,356	23,816,938	48,615,294
Beginning net assets		169,853,427	209,018,691	378,872,118
Ending net assets	$	194,651,783	232,835,629	427,487,412

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
January 31, 2006

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	$	49,735,109	99,273,048	149,008,157
Receivables		426,440	19,295,730	19,722,170
Inventory			4,163,743	4,163,743
Prepaid expenses			4,944,202	4,944,202
Other Assets			30,118,186	30,118,186
Fixed assets		144,780,053	146,216,834	290,996,887
Less payables		(289,819)	(71,176,114)	(71,465,933)
Net Assets	$	194,651,783	232,835,629	427,487,412

Clothing grants now available to students ages 3-18

The Chickasaw Nation Department of Youth Services is currently accepting clothing grant applications from eligible Chickasaw students.

The clothing grant program is funded by the Chickasaw Nation and designed to provide students ages three to 18 years (through high school seniors) with $200 to purchase clothing.

Students must attend an accredited elementary or secondary educational program, except students ages three through five. Students ages three through five, however, must meet all other requirements. Home school students participating in an accredited curriculum are also eligible. Grants will be provided in the form of a VISA gift card and will be awarded once per school year.

Application & Award Process:

• The Youth Services Clothing Grant Application (Form #791) must be completed in its entirety. The application is available in person or by mail at the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth & Family Services building, 231 Seabrook Road, Ada, Oklahoma, 74820, phone 580-310-6620. The application is also available online at www.chickasaw.net.

• The application must document full-time student status with verification by a representative of the school administration. Only original, signed applications will be accepted. Faxed or electronic copies cannot be processed for awards.

• All applications must be accompanied by a Chickasaw Nation citizenship card. Students possessing only a CDIB card should contact the Tribal Government Office to find out how to receive a citizenship card. CDIB cards cannot be accepted for documentation.

• Awards will be delivered by certified mail through the U.S. Postal Service for those living outside the Ada, Oklahoma area. Citizens residing within the Ada, Oklahoma area will be notified by mail when their awards are available for pick-up.

• All applicants should allow three to four weeks for processing.

Guidelines:

• Grants are to be used for the purchase of clothing ONLY.

• Purchase of non-clothing items will result in immediate suspension and cancellation of the VISA gift card. Examples of non-clothing items include, but are not limited to, groceries, makeup, jewelry, perfume, hair products, tobacco, alcohol, fuel, etc.

• Grantees placed on suspension will not be eligible to receive a clothing grant in the upcoming school year.

• Documentation of clothing purchases is required. All receipts must be returned to the department of youth services via mail and/or in person. Failure to provide required documentation can result in the grantee being deemed ineligible from receiving additional clothing grants in the upcoming school years.

• All transactions will be monitored for misuse or non-compliance. Non-compliance could result in the grantee being deemed ineligible from receiving additional clothing grants in the upcoming school years.

• Students who are 18 & attending a post-secondary educational institution (college or vo-tech) are not eligible for this program. These students should contact the department of education services at 580-321-7711.

• The Chickasaw Nation and the department of youth services are absolved from any further responsibility for cards upon delivery to the grantee. A lost of stolen card that retains a balance can be replaced for a fee of $10 that will be subtracted from the balance.

For questions or additional information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Department of Youth Services at 580-310-6620.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Language Classes Spring 2006

Beginning Chickasaw classes:

Sulphur : Sulphur Community Center
Tuesday, March 7, 6-9 p.m.

Ardmore: Ardmore Area Office, GED room,
Tuesday, March 21, 6-9 p.m.

Ada : Human Resource training room
Tuesday, March 7, 6-9 p.m.

Tishomingo: Community Center
Monday, March 27, 6-9 pm. GYM at community center

CONTINUING CLASSES: ADVANCED

Tentative: Ada, advanced only
Ada: Human Resource training room
Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m - noon

Tishomingo: Community Center
Mondday, March 27, 6- 9 pm.

Purcell: Purcell Area Office
Monday, March 6, 6 – 9 p.m.

Each class is scheduled for a total of 10 weeks.

For information or to apply for classes, contact Terri Haney at (580) 332-8478.

Dream of owning your own home?

CHUKA CHUKMASI is a secondary market Conventional Loan for Chickasaw Citizens and Chickasaw Nation Employees. The CNDHTD can assist you with down payment and closing costs. Qualified borrowers invest as little as $500.00. We offer expanded underwriting guidelines that allow those with less than perfect credit to be approved. There are no income guidelines. Maximum loan amount is $359,650.00 and the minimum is $10,000. In addition we can assist with refinancing for homeowners who want to lower their interest rates and or payments.

NEW CONSTRUCTION LOANS: Are you interested in building your own home? If you have been approved for your 30 year financing, Housing Counseling & Loan Services can provide an interim construction loan for you to build your home. This program is open to Chickasaws and employees of the Chickasaw Nation anywhere in the State of Oklahoma. The interest rate on the construction loan is only 5%, the term is 6 months and be prepared to make interest payments on the construction loan during construction. Please call us for further information.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM: Do you need to make improvements to your home but just don't have the money? Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development's Home Improvement Loan Program may be the answer. Maximum loan amount is $30,000.00; interest rate is 5% and maximum term is 10 years. You must be able to qualify for the loan, must have fee simple title and cannot already have a 2nd mortgage for home improvements. Available only for Chickasaws and employees of the Chickasaw Nation in the State of Oklahoma. Work must be completed by a licensed contractor.

Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development

Kay Perry,
Director, GML, CHEC
(580) 421-8856
Summer Stick,
Section Head, CHEC
(580) 421-8862

901 North Country Club
P.O. Box 788
Ada, OK 74820

Stacia Berning,
Loan Counselor
(580) 421-8845

Kyra Childers,
CHEC
(580) 421-8817
Robert Ingram,
Loan Counselor
(580) 421-8867

Birthdays

Alexis Lewis

Alexis Lewis celebrated her 12th birthday Feb. 12, 2006.

She enjoys playing basketball, softball and track. She plays third base in softball and is a very good player. I am very proud of her. She also sings in the Chickasaw Nation Children's Choir. She attends Lone Grove (OK) School.

Koby Corene Lewis celebrated her fourth birthday Feb. 16, 2006.

Koby loves Sunday School. Her favorite song is "Jesus Loves Me." She also loves playing with her friends and her favorite cousin Damien Joe. She attends the Chickasaw Nation Head Start at Ardmore, Okla.

Both girls are loved very much by their parents, Coby and Jaime Lewis of Lone Grove; their sisters and brothers, Justice, Ameia, Taloa, Stringfellow Harmon and Cameron; aunts, Tara Thomas and Alicia Thompson of Ardmore; uncles, Chad Lewis, Albert Taylor of Ardmore, Brian Locust, Vian, Okla.; cousins, Nick, Christine, Nathan Landeras, Damien Joe, Jaylen Thompson of Ardmore; and grandparents, Gary and Mary Lou Thomas of Ardmore and Charlie and Christine Lewis of Ardmore.

We love you both and wish you a happy birthday!

God Bless You!

Love always,

Grandma Mary Lou

Koby Lewis

Joselyn Angeleigh Krehbiel celebrated her second birthday February 3, 2006 with her friends and family.

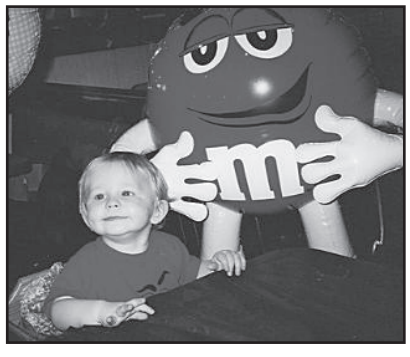
Joselyn celebrated with a birthday party fit for a princess, complete with a cinderella ball gown and crystal tiara. She happily enjoyed her second birthday with a castle cake, games, dancing, and to top off the event a treasure chest pinata filled with "jewels."

Joselyn is 1/16Chickasaw.

She is the daughter of proud parents Joseph and Lauren Krehbiel, and big sister to baby brother Liam, all of Ada, Okla.

Grandparents are Mike and Janelle Brown, of Ada, Okla., and John and Judy Krehbiel, of Roosevelt, Okla.

Joselyn Krehbiel



Johnathan Davis

Johnathan Lee Davis celebrated his first birthday Dec. 29, 2005 with a party at Chuck E Cheeses with his parents, grandparents and cousin Khyzer Lee Davis.

Johnathan is the son of Richard and Deborah Davis, Garland, Texas. He is the grandson of Gene and Sharon Davis, of Dallas.

Births

Liam Krehbiel

Joseph and Lauren Krehbiel of Ada, Okla., announce the birth of their son, **Liam Auron Beausoleil Krehbiel**. Liam was born November 15, 2005 at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility.

He weighed 8 lbs, 1.5ounces, and measured 20 1/2 inches long.

Liam, is 1/16 Chickasaw. He joins an older sister, Joselyn Angeleigh Krehbiel, who recently celebrated her second birthday.

The proud grandparents of Liam are Michael & Janelle Brown of Ada, and John & Judy Krehbiel of Roosevelt, Okla.

Births

Ainsley Sisk

Ainsley Austin Sisk was born December 6, 2006 at 10:59 p.m. in Oklahoma City at Baptist Medical Center. Her parents are Austin and Chrystal Sisk, of Yukon, Okla.

She joins her sisters Chalysta and Delaney and her brother Harper. Her brother Hayden and great-grandfather Roy Malone bless her from Heaven.

Anisley weighed 7 lbs., and measured 19 ¼ inches at birth.

Hagen Owens

Eric Eugene and Rachel Kay (Frazee) Owens of Moore, Okla., announce the birth of their first child, **Hagen Gene Owens**. Hagen was born 7:37p.m., Dec. 21, 2005 at Lakeside Women's Center, Oklahoma City. He weighed 6lb., 7oz. and measured 19 1/4 inches.

He is the paternal great-great-grandson of original enrollee Virgil Owens and the great-great-great-grandson of original enrollee Bina (Underwood) Owens, both from Oklahoma.

His paternal grandparents are Smitty Eugene and Sherry Christine (Hutzel) Owens, of Oklahoma City. His great-grandparents are Hagen Eugene and Sarah Norma Joan (Lewis) Owens, the late William Clifford Hutzel and Gayle Hutzel, all of Oklahoma City, and Carroll Lee and Mary Catherine (Mason) Pyron of Hot Springs, Ark.

His great-aunts and uncles are Becky and Frank Galindo, and Charolette Dean, all of Oklahoma City, Debby Owens, and Brent and Janice Owens, Lavonne and Scott Lowell, all of Moore, Okla., Kieth and Lori Owens William and Diana Hutzel, all of Norman, Okla., Justin (Kimbo) and Brenda Owens, of Blanchard, Okla., David Pyron of Hot Springs, Rocky and Sherry Hutzel of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Marvin and Kathy Igo of Florida.

His aunts and uncles are Joseph (Joey) and Lanaye Owens, Josh and Ashley Owens, all of Moore, and Rachelle Owens, of Oklahoma City.

His second cousins Kimberlea (Owens) and Brian Edwards Stephanie Owens, Tony Galindo, and the late Brian Galindo, Scott and Brandi Hutzel, Chrissy Hutzel, Josh Dean, Angie Dean and Cory Dean, all of Oklahoma City, Amber (Owens) and Shannon Lynn of Mustang, Virgil Owens and Aimee Owens, of Norman, Justin Owens and Jesse Boring, of Panama City, Fla., Amanda (Mandi) Boring, of Blanchard, Carissa and Chaz Lowell, of Moore, and Jill and John Hutzel, of Broken Arrow.

His third cousins are Tawnie Galindo and Rusty Galindo and Kadynce (Kady Jo) Owens, all of Moore, Dusten Lynn, of Mustang, and Bryce Edwards of Oklahoma City,

His maternal grandparents are Reverend Danny Leigh and Judy Kay (Adcock) Frazee, of Oklahoma City.

His maternal great-grandparents are the late Everett and Helen (Smith) Frazee and the late Rudolph Lee and Bona Jean Adcock.

His aunts and uncle are Woody Leigh and Lori Michelle (Putnam) Frazee, of Oklahoma City. His cousin is Deacon Leigh Tucker Frazee, of Oklahoma City.

Chickasaw student first in Oklahoma City math contest

Annah Baykal accepts her first-place math award from Dove Science Academy CEO Mustafa Guvercin.

OKLAHOMA CITY - Annah Baykal, a fifth-grade Chickasaw student from Quail Creek Elementary School in Oklahoma City, recently placed first in a citywide math contest.

Annah competed against 106 fifth graders from several Oklahoma City schools. She won the competition by scoring 992 of a possible 1,000 points.

She was awarded a new computer system for her first-place finish and will also participate in an advanced mathematics course at Dove Science Academy in Oklahoma City.

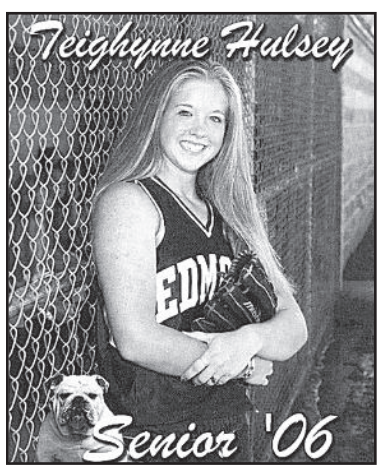
Annah is the great-great-granddaughter of Chickasaw original enrollee Jacob Durant and the granddaughter of Veta (Durant) Dryden.

Chickasaw senior signs to play softball at Arkansas

Teighynne Hulsey, a 17-year-old Chickasaw senior at Edmond (OK) Memorial High School recently signed a letter of intent to play Division I softball at the University of Arkansas. She will major in pre-med.

Teighynne is a left-handed pitcher with a .062 ERA. She also plays first base and center field. She hits .385 as the lead-off batter and is a four-year letterman for the Edmond Memorial Bulldogs.

Teighynne also plays with the U.S. Angels summer team for coaches Ralph Richey and Jaime Foutch. Teighynne began playing softball at the age of four and began pitching at nine. She has traveled to play ball in New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia and Missouri competing in Nationals for eight years.



Teighynne Hulsey

Teighynne is an honor student enrolled in AP classes and is active in DECA, National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. She lives in Edmond with her mother, Kim, and sisters, Caitlynne, Maesynne and Bevynne.

Colbert named CEO of Native American Bank

DENVER - Veteran Chickasaw-Creek banker J.D. Colbert has been appointed as president and chief executive officer of Native American Bank, N.A. according to Tex G. Hall, chairman of the board of directors of the bank's holding company.

"We are very pleased to have Mr. Colbert join us as president and CEO," Hall said. "J.D. Colbert brings a strong record of success in the executive positions that he has held in banking and Indian Country. We believe that he is a great fit for our organization and we look forward to exciting accomplishments under his leadership."

Colbert comes to Native American Bank from Bank2 in Oklahoma City, a bank owned by Chickasaw Nation that Colbert founded and where he served as executive vice president. Colbert also founded the North American Native Bankers Association, an association of Indian-owned banks in the U.S. and Canada. He is also a former bank examiner with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, a former bank chief financial officer, a former tribal administrator and a former bank president.

"I am very excited and honored to join Native American Bank as president and CEO. Native American Bank has immense potential to become the largest and most successful provider of financial services across Indian Country" Colbert said. "I greatly look forward to working with our board and staff in further positioning Native American Bank to be the catalyst for the economic improvement in Indian Country.

Native American Bank is a $63 million bank with corporate headquarters in Denver, a retail branch in Browning, Montana and loan production offices in Box Elder, Montana and Anchorage, Alaska. The bank is owned by 24 federally-recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Native corporations and tribal organizations. For more information about Native American Bank, please visit the bank's website at www.nabna.com.

J.D. Colbert

Sandlins feted on 50th

Wilma and Truman Sandllin

The children of Truman and Wilma Sandlin hosted a 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the First Baptist Church in Lebanon, Okla.

Brother Dan Clifton officiated the renewing of the couple's vows. A reception followed the ceremony.

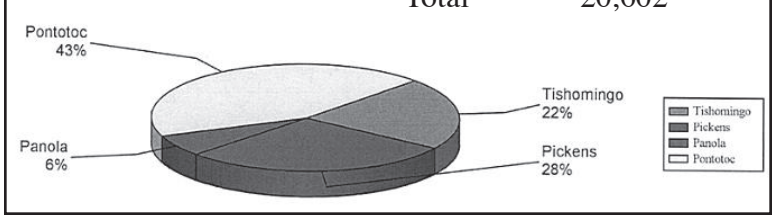
There were many friends and relatives from out of town and from Lebanon.

Chickasaw places in jiu-jitsu match

From left, teammates Brian Baker (first place), Jason Sasser (coach), and Kevin Lewis (second place) with their trophies after competing in the Winter War Best of the Southwest Jiu-Jitsu tournament in Addison Texas. Lewis, a Chickasaw, had never competed before and has only been training at Sasser Jiu-Jitsu in Ardmore for three months.

Count of Voters by District

Tishomingo	4,460	Panola	1,336
Pickens	5,859	Pontotoc	8,947
		Total	20,602



Chickasaw teacher in *Who's Who*

Linda Blackwood Harris

Mrs. Linda Blackwood Harris was recently notified that she was selected for inclusion in the ninth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2005*.

This honor comes from a successful former student who recommended Mrs. Harris because she had made a difference in his/her life. Only high school and college students who have been cited for academic excellence themselves in *Who's Who Among American High School Students, Who's Who Among American High School-Sports Edition* and the *National Dean's List* are invited to nominate one teacher from their entire academic experience.

Mrs. Harris has been employed at Elmore City-Pernell Elementary for the past 24 years. She has taught grades 2-6, P.E., Title I, Gifted Talented, coached 5th and 6th Basketball, 4-H. She served as president, vice-president, and secretary of ECP local association. She has served on various committees such as: staff development, Johnson-O'Malley, and bargaining committee. She was supervisor of the after school program for three years, and has driven a bus for the past 16 years.

Mrs. Harris currently serves as assistant principal. She started her teaching career at Maysville Public Schools where she taught 2nd for one year.

She would like to thank her former student for this honor.

Mrs. Harris is ¼ Chickasaw, the daughter of the late Bill Sr. and Zettie Blackwood, she is the granddaughter of original enrollee Emily (Loomer) Gibson nee Blackwood.

Chickasaw swimmer competes in 100m IM

Blake Havern

Six-year-old Memphis Thunder Aquatic Club swimmer Blake Havern competed in the 10 & under 100m Individual Medley at the Aquafina Splash Invitational in Collierville, Tennessee, January 13 -15, 2006. The IM consists of the swimmer swimming equal distances of the following strokes butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.

Blake's great-grandmother is the late Chickasaw Charline Penner Von Tungeln, born at Mill Creek, Okla., in 1914. His grandparents, Tim and Amanda Havern, live in El Reno, Okla.

Douglas-Barnes inducted into Sigma Gamma Rho

Norma Douglas-Barnes was recently inducted into the Philo's an affiliate of Gamma Mu Sigma Chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. She chose to be affiliated with Sigma Rho Sorority, which the first chapter was organized and started in 1941 at Langston University by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Noneta White-Barnes.

Philo is a Greek work that means friend. In 1980, the Philos were organized on a national level and have grown to represent over 44 chapters with more than 420 members. The Philos have contributed countless hours of community service and thousands of dollars to aid Sigma Gamma Rho's aim to enhance the quality of life within every community.

Philo colors are gold and white and their flowers are white carnations with gold ribbons. It consists of women who are friends of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority who function as an auxiliary to the Alumna Chapter.

Mrs. Douglas-Barnes is the daughter of Miles and Alma Douglas, Milo, Okla.

She and her husband David have two children, Ashley and David.

She is currently taking classes at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, and works part-time at Francis Tuttle Technology Center.

Norma Douglas-Barnes

March 7 meeting

OKC council to hear program on Cultural Center

Sue Linder Lindsay of the Chickasaw Nation Cultural Center will be the featured guest speaker at the March meeting of the OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council. "We're all interested in learning of the progress of the new Cultural Center in Sulphur, so we're all anxious to see Sue's presentation," said Chair Giles when announcing the March speaker.

There will also be a presentation by Bobby Saunkeah and Wade Boyles of the Diabetes Care Center. Boyles contacted Chair Giles after "The Listening Conference" regarding their efforts to expand the program to the OKC area. "Of course we are thrilled to have the Diabetes Care Center share their expertise on diabetes ," said Chair Giles, "and I'm sure many of our Council members will be interested in the services offered by the Center."

All Chickasaws are urged to attend the March 7 meeting beginning at 7 p.m. at the OKCMCCC building located at 3301 East Reno in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-204-0536 or visit the OKCMCCC website at www.okc-chickasawcouncil.org.

Come early and stay late for fellowship with other Chickasaws.

Chickasaw Language Family terms

Mother—ishki'
Father—inki'
Daughter—oshiitiik
Son—oshi'
Sister--intiik
Brother—inakfi
Wife—imihoo
Husband—ihattak
Grandmother—appo'si
Grandfather—imafo'si'
Grandchild—ipok
Aunt—ishko'si
Uncle—imoshi'
Baby—chipota ishkanno'si

Vanoss stickball team

Members of the Vanoss (OK) stickball team are, front row from left, Katie Henson, Alex Jones, Kelsea Whorton, Kristin Brimm, Madison Oliver. Middle row, Coach Larry Cheatwood, Cody Edwards, Jessie Scott, Tay Augustin, Jessie Whitedeer, Coach John Impson. Back row, Daniel Melton, Logan Martin, Nick Dramon, Ryan Hood, Zack Scroggins and Logan Wood.

Tribal department at forefront of placement

Adoptive, foster families needed for Native children

The Department of Family Advocacy is in need of adoptive homes that are currently licensed with either a state/county agency or through private adoption agencies. The department is particularly interested in families willing to consider large sibling groups and older children for adoptive placement.

There is also a great need for foster homes willing to accept large sibling groups and adolescents for temporary care.

The need for families willing to foster native children has never been greater; nationwide more than 6,700 Native American or Alaskan Natives entered foster care in FY 2003 (ACF/AFCARS Report).

Native American children continue to be placed outside of their biological homes at twice the rate of other ethnic groups (Congressional Research Service) and in the state of Oklahoma, on a month-by-month basis, more than 1,330 Native American children required out-of-home placement (OKDHS report for FY 2003).

The Chickasaw Nation also works with various state agencies to help in the foster care placement of any Native American child. Although the numbers are daunting, it is the tribe's goal to place every Native child in a foster home licensed by Chickasaw Nation until those children can be placed with relatives or can be returned to their home of origin.

However, this doesn't always happen and when those children become legally free for adoption, the department begins the process of assisting with adoption.

The department is involved daily with agencies seeking to place children in safe, loving homes for the purposes of adoption. The department receives almost daily contact from private and state agencies notifying Chickasaw Nation of possible adoptions and they often request a list or make inquiries regarding adoptive homes licensed by the Chickasaw Nation.

Our family advocacy department receives adoptive inquiries from many state agencies through the United States not only for Chickasaw children but also children from different tribes. The department can help those applicants already licensed by private adoption agencies by sharing their information with the agencies and broadening their access to mother's wishing to place their infant(s) for adoption.

The department receives inquiries from such states as Massachusetts, Florida, Idaho, California, Texas, Colorado, Washington, Missouri and others.

The department has many needs for current tribal and state custody children, one such need is the need for foster/adoptive placements for older children and large sibling groups.

Many times, large sibling groups are placed in separate foster care placements due to the unavailability of families willing to accept the older children or large sibling groups; ultimately it is the children that suffer as they often lose their deep sibling bonds and connections due to this unfortunate circumstance.

Due to the separation during foster care, these large siblings groups are often placed separately as well for adoption. One particular group of siblings includes four children (11, 8, 5 and 4) that the department is trying to keep together. The children are currently placed in three different homes and it is the department's goal to find a home willing to accept all four.

For more information about the adoption or foster care program please contact Arthur Ellsworth at (580) 252-4119 ext 13, Aurelia Chaney at (580) 252-4119 ext 14. The Department of Family Advocacy's headquarters office in Ada, Okla., at (580) 272-5550 or any of the regional offices located in Sulphur, Tishomingo, Purcell and Ardmore.

Darter, Phillippi wed

Rachael Dawn Darter and Leon Jay Phillippi, both of Duncan, Okla., exchanged wedding vows at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 1, 2005, in the drawing room of Duns Castle, Duns, Scotland, with Donald Rutherford Gaddes of Duns officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Steve and Jackie Darter, of Duncan.

Her grandparents are Ralph and JoAnn Darter, of Duncan; Virgil and Betty Flaxbeard, of Rocky Comfort, Mo; and the late Jack Rogers, who lived in Duncan.

The bridegroom is the grandson of Pat Walker, of Anthony, Kan., and the late Vera Phillippi, who lived in Argonia, Kan.

Col. Ian McDonald provided music on bagpipes.

The ceremony was performed before arrangements of roses and white lilies and silver candelabra.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a strapless white gown of lace tulle over matte satin, embellished with seed pearls and sequins and styled with a chapel-length train. Her chapel-length veil was adorned with seed pearls and secured by a pearl and crystal tiara.

She carried red roses and white lilies wrapped with handkerchiefs that had belonged to her great-grandmothers, Mrs. Ed Cox and Mrs. A.D. Darter.

Flower girl was Amy Smith of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She wore a traditional Scottish tartan.

A reception was hosted in the dining hall of the castle.

Members of the house party included Max Phillippi, Beth Phillippi, J. Muhlenbruch, Steve and Jackie Darter, John Darter, Sara Stevens, Carmen and Amy Smith, Betty Flaxbeard, Ralph and JoAnn Darter, Lisa Kelly, Ashley Ripley, Kaite Kane, Andy and Vicky Jones and Judy Crawford.

J. Muhlenbruch and Beth Phillippi were hosts for a rehearsal dinner at Howie's Restaurant, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Following a rail trip through Scotland and England, the couple established a home in Glenpool.

Hunter, Dobbs exchange vows

Luke Dobbs and Kelly Huber were united in marriage December 26, 2005 at Marland Mansion, Ponca City, Okla.

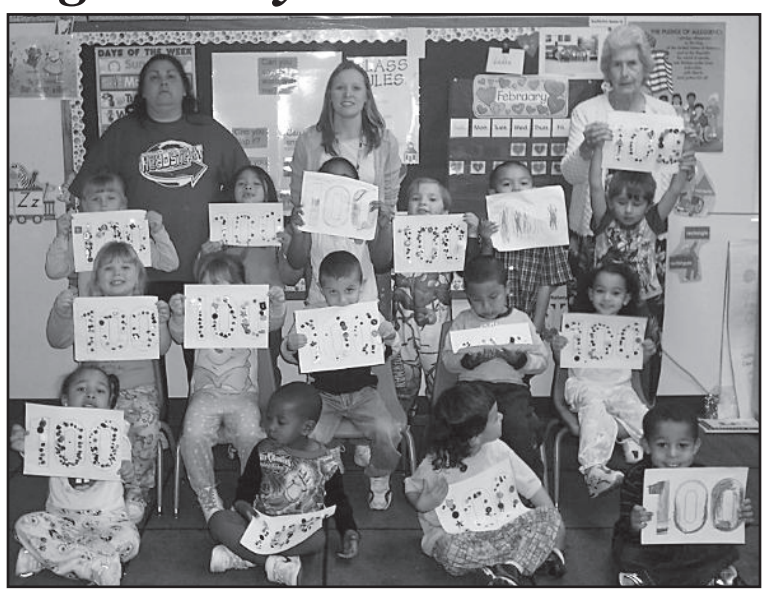
The bride is the daughter of Robert and Julia Huber, Stillwater, Okla. She is the granddaughter of Barney and Donna Peterson, of Collinsville, Okla., and Dorothy and Simon Wilczek, of Kingfisher, Okla.

The bridegroom is the son of Kevin and Darla Blackwell, of Owasso, Okla., and Steve Dobbs, Moore, Okla. He is the grandson of Larry Wood, Stratford, Okla., Jeanie Wood, Stratford, Claude and Juanita Blackwell, Ada, Okla., and Freda Wood, Jess Wood, Stratford, Essie Davis, Ada, the late Homer Davis and Eunice and Gene Dobbs, Stratford. The bride is a junior at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

Luke and Kelly Dobbs

The bridegroom is a sophomore studying sociology.

A great day to celebrate 100!



Students of classroom 3 at the Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Head Start celebrated the 100th day of school Friday, February 10, 2006.

Chickasaw senior site valentine royalty

The Chickasaw Nation seniors had a Valentine celebration fit for royalty at the community center in Ada in February. Each site crowned Valentine king and queen representatives, which were chosen by site members. The royal court included, front row from left, Ralph and Joann Darter, Duncan; Sue Richards and Eula Gibson, Madill; Henry and Irene Allen, Ada; Joe and Jeannie Roberts, Ardmore; C.D. and Wanda Scribner, Tishomingo; Sam and Cricket Tillery, Sulphur. Back row from left, Melvin and Betty Crabtree, Pauls Valley; Flora Perry, Kullihoma; Hurl and Flora Mead, Achille; Judy Fisher, Connerville; Lieutenant Governor Jefferson Keel; Dawatha Easterling, Connerville; Carl and Pat Green, Purcell; Karen Cook, Division on Aging Administrator.

Sara Linsley to attend People to People World Leadership Forum

Sara Linsley, daughter of Chickasaw Cultural Center director Sue Linder-Linsley, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum.

Sara will join a select group of students in Washington, D.C., March 13-19 to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

From Capitol Hill to the Smithsonian Institute, and from Colonial Williamsburg to the National Museum of American History, Sara will examine the characteristics of American leadership during times of national challenge and prosperity.

Forum delegates will also participate in small-group discussions and exercises to experience first-hand how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus, and foster change.

Sara Linsley

Sara was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

The program is coordinated by the People to People Student Ambassador Programs to fulfill the vision Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People toe People during his presidency in 1956.

Darter named top grid newcomer

John Darter, a Chickasaw and son of Ralph and Jo Ann Darter, of Velma, Oklahoma, was recently named Velma-Alma football newcomer of the year.

Darter was a big part of Velma-Alma finishing 10-4 with three playoff victories as he rushed for 1,271 yards and scored 15 touchdowns.

Defensively, he made 60 tackles and three interceptions.

"I was looking forward to the season, but I didn't expect it to go as good as it did," John said.

Studying the flag, pledge

Ardmore Head Start classroom 3 has been studying he upcoming Flag Day. At left, MaCray Lynn holds the flag while reciting the Pledge of Allegience. Above, Erica Agers, Sakeithia Harris and Laura Gonzalez share a story about the Pledge of Allegience.

Mocassin Trail 'In Your Corner'

By Anona McCullar

Tip of the month

Experts suggest that moderate exercise may even reduce the risk for some intestinal disorders, including ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, indigestion, and diverticulosis.

The Moccasin Trail program would like to congratulate the following participants for achieving over the 1000 mile goal: James Lampkin, Debra Lindsey, Robert West IV, and Robert West V.

Congrats gals and guys for your success!

Making music

Jerod Tate sang a traditional Chickasaw song during his recent talk to a class of music composition students at the University of Oklahoma.

Chickasaw language classes open in several communities

Fluent in Chickasaw? Preservationists are calling you!

Terri Haney presents a door prize to Hawaii "Lois" Davidson durin the recent gathering of fluent speakers at Marie Bailey center in Ada.

ADA, Okla. - Dozens of fluent speakers and others interested in preserving the Chickasaw language gathered Friday, Feb. 10 for food, fellowship and fun at Marie Bailey Center.

Pauline Brown pointed out that Chickasaw speakers have been asked to assist in choosing a name for the Chickasaw Cultural Center currently under construction near Sulphur.

Many of the fluent speakers present shared stories ranging from traditional stories learned from their elders to stories of personal experiences.

While many of the stories were humorous, there was a serious tone to some of the discussion, as many in attendance noted that the language is in danger of being lost.

"Our language is becoming extinct," said Hawaii "Lois" Davidson, who is currently attending Chickasaw classes in Ardmore. "I'm very proud of being Chickasaw. When I was little, my aunt always spoke to me in Chickasaw, but I wasn't allowed to speak it, because I was going to Carter (Seminary).

"A lot of those words come back to me now. My children are very proud that I have been taking those classes."

Pat Cox explained Chickasaw language classes are under way in Ada, Sulphur, Tishomingo and Ardmore and made an appeal to fluent speakers who aren't already involved to assist with the classes.

"I've been listening to a lot of the fluent speakers, and if you live in those areas, you could go and help those people out," said Ms. Cox. "We could use your help. Chickasaw is our first language. In 20 years our language could be gone. I would like to encourage you to come out and help."

Stan Smith, who served as mater of ceremonies, said he feels pride when he hears Chickasaws speaking the language.

"Once in a while when I go to Carl Albert I hear people speaking Chickasaw and it makes me feel proud. I'm proud of my language," said Mr. Smith. "I'm proud of being Chickasaw. I know you feel the same way."

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Kullihoma turkey hunt

Spring turkey season is right around the corner for Oklahoma hunters and the Chickasaw Nation Rangers have released the agenda for turkey hunting at the Kullihoma Reservation.

1. Dates for spring hunting will coincide with the State of Oklahoma dates, April 6 through May 6, 2006.
2. A two (2) tom turkey limit is in place for Kullihoma Reservation but only one (1) tom turkey may be harvested per day until limit is met.
3. A hand written or typed request must be submitted by hunters of all ages along with a copy of the hunter's CDIB card. Requests must be mailed or hand delivered by March 22, 2006 to:

Rick Carson
Chickasaw Nation Ranger Supervisor
231 North Rennie Street
Ada, OK 74820

4. All hunters may pick up their Turkey Permits at the Wildlife Commission Office starting March 29, 2006, but no later than April 5, 2006.
4. Drawings for assigned sections will be conducted by the Chickasaw Nation Conservation & General Ranger Department along with the Wildlife Commissioners.
5. All turkeys harvested must be reported to the Chickasaw Nation Ranger Department at (580) 310-6466.

For more information about the spring turnkey hunt at the Kullihoma Reservation, call (580) 310-6466. For more information about Oklahoma limits and general regulations for wild turkey hunting, visit www.wildlifedepartment.com.

Winning patch chosen for Lighthorse Police

After careful consideration of entries from across the United States, a winning design as been chosen for the Lighthorse Police department patch.

Jeremy Hafer submitted the winning design, which consisted of a star on a light blue background with one feather on each side and LIGHTHORSE above and POLICE below the star.

Unique to the design is the star itself, which is composed of the Chickasaw Seal with images of five horse heads extending outward to form the points.

"This was a very difficult decision, because all the designs we received were excellent," said LPD Chief Jason O'Neal, who led the selection committee.

Mr. Hafer's design will serve as the official logo of the LPD and will be featured on a patch worn by every officer in the department, on the department letterhead and on the side of LPD patrol cars.

A commemorative plaque emblazoned with the winning design is being prepared for presentation to Mr. Hafer.

Chief O'Neal offered special thanks to everyone who took the time to enter designs.

Entrants included James Blackburn, Howell "Sunny" Orr, Justin Edwards, Diann Anoatubby, Patrick James, Kenneth Hogan, Tim Heath, Lisa Lacher, Charles Holden, Stan and Darlene Black and Mike Murdoch.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

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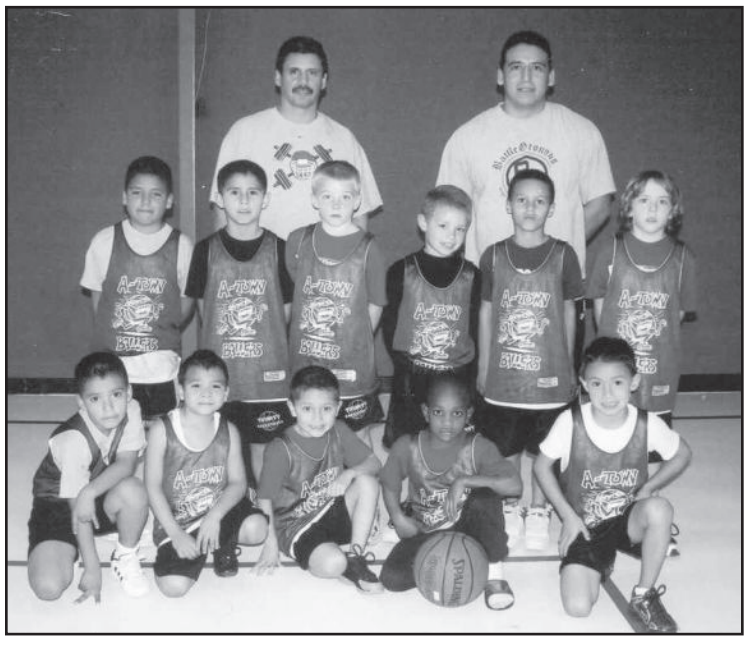
Chickasaw ball team



Several Chickasaw boys were members of the A-Town Ballers basketball team which participated in the Trinity Baptist league in Ada, Okla. The team includes, front row from left, Jared Greenwood, Jason Morgan, Reese Hamilton, Kylen Cooper, Dylan Walker. Middle row, from left, Erick Greenwood, Monte Carpitcher, Billy Wall, Jayson Ellis, Jordan Stephen and Tristan Garvin. Back row, coaches Darrel Walker and Ric Greenwood.

Governor presents service awards to tribal employees

30 year service award:
Chickasaw Nation Housing Development: Linda Robins
Child Support Services: Lynn Gibson
Customer Service – Carl Albert: Debbie Jackson

25 year service award:
Pharmacy: Gayle Clark
Ada Area Office: Louise Shields
Chickasaw Nation Housing Development: Steve Lunsford
Transportation Services: Jeannie Lunsford

15 year service award:

Administrative Services Center: Donnie Alford • **Aging & Sr. Nutrition**: Pamela Nelson • **Audiology**: Betty Frazier • **Chickasaw Nation Housing Development**: Ida Elliott; George Pittman; Tonie Wade • **Child Care**: Denisia Deramus • **Child Support Services**: Dawn Gray • **Facilities & Support**: Farron Culley • **Head Start**: Melinda Filbeck • **Healthy Lifestyles**: Curtis Hightower • **Nutrition Services**: Thurman Walker • **Switchboard – Carl Albert**: Randall Walton

20 year service award:

Chickasaw Nation Health System: Addie Gaddis • **Chickasaw Nation Housing Development:** Wayne King; Jackie Williams • **Chickasaw Enterprises:** Wanda O'Dell • **Children's Village:** Lester Hembree, • **Governor's Office:** Shelly Bray; Tammy Gray • **Legislative Office:** Doretta Sellers • **Nutrition Services:** Leah Delozier; Harold Hamilton; Melinda Newport • **Procurement:** Mary Gipson • **Tishomingo Area Office:** Delores Monetathchi • **Youth Services:** Robert Hensley

10 year service award:

Ada Area Office: Marilyn Coltz • **Administration – Carl Albert:** Sandi Sanders • **Administrative Services:** Wanda Spradlin • **Aging & Sr. Nutrition:** Brenda Hughes • **Bio Medical Engineering:** Carla Dyer; Lee Phillips • **Business Solutions:** Sharon Postoak • **Chickasaw Enterprises:** Robert Bennett; Brian Campbell; Kregg Leonard • **Chickasaw Nation Housing Development:** Susie Crawford; Kelley Gold; Danny Thomas; Craig Parnacher; Gary Humphreys; Deborah Walker • **CNI - Corporate Office:** Michael Webb • **Cultural Resources:** Joann Ellis • **Dental:** Becky Pennington; Tonie Waller • **Diabetic Care Center:** Martha Eck • **Facilities & Support:** Vernon Factor; Gabriel Frazier • **Head Start:** Eva Frazier; Marvia Johnson • **Horticulture:** Stacy Gibney; Lura Mullican • **Housekeeping – Carl Albert:** Billy Gipson • **Laboratory – Durant Clinic:** Ron Westervelt • **Maintenance – Carl Albert:** Mark Johnson • **Medical Records:** Vicki Carter • **Medisaw:** Alice Cozad; Shelly Truett • **Med Surg:** Marsha Miller • **Nursing:** Lillie Dusenberry; Wanda Lasater; Cathy Norfleet; Angela Scott; Sharon West • **Procurement:** Barbara Hatton; Chris Henry • **Property & Supply:** Mike Gross; Brenda Roberts • **Radiology:** Valerie Cope; Maxene Williamson • **Security – Carl Albert:** Leo Poe • **Switchboard – Carl Albert:** Sandi Beller • **Upward Bound:** Rici Love; Susan Webb • **Volunteer Services:** Ken Lancev

Louise Shields named Customer Service Employee of Year

Louise Shields has been selected Chickasaw Nation 2005 Customer Service Employee of the Year. Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Program Operations Division Administrator Pat Woods, above with Ms. Shields, presented the award during the January employee service awards ceremony.

During the annual employee service awards ceremony in January, Louise Shields was recognized as the Chickasaw Nation 2005 Customer Service Employee of the Year.

Ms. Shields serves as the administrative assistant in the Ada Area Office for the division of program operations. She has been employed by the Chickasaw Nation for 25 years starting as a JOM coordinator in the education division before transferring to her current position in 2001.

Her direct supervisor is Ada Area Office Director Saundra Seeley.

"Louise is the perfect example of a Chickasaw Nation employee," Seeley said. "She possesses all the desired virtues like excellent work ethic, dedication, loyalty, high moral standards, efficiency, plus much more than is necessary."

Ms. Shields was also selected as the 2005 Program Operations Employee of the Year as voted on by division employees.

"Louise is the backbone of the office," Seeley said, "and that opinion is shared by all her colleagues as well as me.

"I have been associated with Louise many years in a business and personal capacity. Those qualities extend to her personal life as well as her business life. She's the genuine article. It is an honor and a privilege to be associated with someone of her caliber."

Ms. Shields is full-blood Chickasaw and the daughter of the late Joseph and Minnie Shields. She is one of 11 children, nine of which are employed by the Chickasaw Nation. She lives in Ada and has three children, Kevin, Jay and Candice, and one grandson, Kanan.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

'Bedre' Day' at State Capitol a big success

Dozens of legislators, staff members, pages and guests enjoyed a taste of Oklahoma's finest chocolate during Bedre' Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Sponsored by Representatives Wes Hilliard and Lisa Billy along with Senators Johnnie Crutchfield and Susan Paddack, the event highlighted the success of Bedre' (Norwegian for "better") Fine Chocolates.

Rep. Hilliard said Bedre' Day was modeled after similar events at the capitol highlighting Oklahoma businesses.

"I was thinking 'what could we highlight in our area that is from House District 22, and I thought of Bedre' instantly,'" said Rep. Hilliard. "I don't think all legislators realize the economic impact that the Chickasaw Nation has on the state of Oklahoma other than gaming.

"We wanted to show the business aspect because (the Chickasaw Nation) is doing a great job in the businesses and industries. Our whole purpose today was to educate the members of the legislature and have a lot of fun too and show that we do have one of the finest chocolates here in Oklahoma."

Rep. Lisa Billy was a member of the tribal legislature when the Chickasaw Nation purchased Bedre' in 2001.

"In co-sponsoring Bedre' Day, one of my goals was to build better relationships with other house members," said Rep. Billy. "Part of my goal as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and as a member of the Chickasaw Nation is to educate house members who are non-native on what businesses the tribes are building and Bedre' Chocolates is a wonderful business.

"(This event) goes along with our Native American caucus goals. The Native American caucus is a brand new idea in the Oklahoma Legislature. And this fits right in with our goals of building better relationships in Oklahoma government and educating house members on what tribes are doing."

Prior to the opening of the Pauls Valley factory, the company produced chocolates in Ada for mail order sale to individuals and more than 200 wholesale accounts world-wide.

Since opening its Pauls Valley factory in July, 2003, Bedre' Chocolates has tripled annual sales and made changes in operations which will allow it to continue expansion far into the future, according to Bedre' manager Jeff Case.

After some research, Case decided to move from hand-made candies to a more automated system of production.

"Some people asked if going to a more automated system would lower the quality of the product, but actually the quality is even better now," said Case. "With the new system, the ingredient mix is precisely controlled, giving us a superior, and more consistent, product."

Custom-made equipment manufactured in Europe proved to be the most efficient and effective way to increase production and maintain quality.

Since the new Bedre' Chocolates factory has been open, the facility has become a favored tour destination for school and church groups of all ages.

"We have had at least one or two tour groups per day in here for several months," said Case. "Recently, we had two or three drop-in tours along with a couple of scheduled tours. So there were more than 200 that took the tour that day alone."

Tour guides explain the process of making caramel and mixing different types of chocolate.

Tour groups also learn about the function of the large enrobing machines used to cover potato chips, nuts and other items with chocolate as well as the process of pouring chocolate into forms to make coins and other specialty items.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Bedre' Fine Chocolates manager Jeff Case, right, talks with Oklahoma State Rep. Wes Hilliard during "Bedre' Day" at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Dr. Sandefur honored with OU Distinguished Alumni Award

Gary Sandefur is the recipient of the University of Oklahoma's Distinguished Alumni and Service Award.

Dr. Sandefur, a Chickasaw, received his bachelor of arts from the University of Oklahoma in 1974 and a Ph.D from Stanford University in 1978.

He taught at the University of Oklahoma for six years before moving to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He and his wife Kathy Wallace are 1969 high school graduates of Madill (OK) High School.

He is the son of Cleo and Jessie Sandefur.

Oral History: Darrell Walker

By RICHARD GREEN
Contributing Writer

Recorded and Edited by Richard Green.

Back in the nineties, my tribe hired me as a child welfare case worker. I had a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and through some of the coursework I knew that I'd be seeing some terrible things. But books and lectures don't really prepare you for the shock of the real world. It was tough to take, seeing children who had been physically abused or neglected, sexually abused, children living in filthy, unsafe places.

Because all of the cases were confidential, I couldn't share my feelings with anyone. At times, I would get so overwhelmed emotionally that I'd just wind up crying. It took me almost three years, I'd say, to be able to cope better with all the misery. I don't know if my heart got harder or what. Maybe I learned my limits. But, it was always hard dealing with the unknown. You play a role in sending a child home not knowing if things will really improve.

I did this work for 10 years and wondered later how I'd done it for so long. It really took a lot out of me. I couldn't do it again. Three of us covered 13 counties. The cases all involved Chickasaws or kids from other tribes. We'd get permission from those tribes to get involved in those cases. We'd go out on the initial call with DHS (Department of Human Services) case workers. Many of the Indian families wouldn't talk to DHS workers but they would to me because they could see I am Indian like them. Some thought they were getting treated unfairly because they were Indian. I could relate. In one county, the DHS people called me chief.

The primary goal in every case was to protect the child, and I never lost sight of that, believe me. But at the same time, we could intervene on behalf of the parents with their permission. We could provide services through the Chickasaw Nation, and sometimes meeting some needs was what it would take to stop the problem. As Indian case workers, we often had to fight to keep our Indian families together. That's where our hearts were. We knew the backgrounds and the problems. Many Indian people put their trust in us.

I was sometimes shocked by what I'd see. But at the same time I understood some of it, the living conditions for example. Case workers would decide to remove children from the home because according to the rules, the house was too small and crowded and they wouldn't or couldn't get another place. Sometimes, I'd object to that kind of decision. I knew that if some of these case workers had visited my child-hood home at Kullihoma they might have tried to take me away from my grandparents' care for the same reason. That would have been a tragedy.

Some people believe the idea that poverty goes hand in hand with child abuse. It doesn't.

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I was born at Valley View Hospital in 1964 to Bob and Sally Graham. He was a non-Indian, a long-haul truck driver. My mother was seven-eighths Chickasaw. She was one of nine children born to Simon and Pauline Walker. My parents lived in Ada, but I lived with my (maternal) grandparents at Kullihoma (12 miles east of Ada) until I entered college. My younger sister, Shirley Graham, always lived with our parents in Ada.

Until I was 12, we lived in a two-room house with an outhouse out back. There were generally six of us living there, my grandparents, my cousin Tim Postoak and two uncles, Virgil and Gary Walker. It was crowded but we made do. At night we'd roll out mattresses or sleep on two couches and cots. We did have electricity and a small TV. But there was no running water till I was in 8th grade. Before then, we took our baths in tubs of water from a well about 50 yards from the house. Or Tim and I would bathe in a pond with red water. We'd come out clean but red.

About 5 every morning my grandmother would get up and chop wood for the heat stove and the cook stove. For every meal, she had to restart the fire, or in winter, feed the cook stove with coals from the heat stove. As I got older I would sometimes

Darrell Walker's grandmother Pauline Walker.

Darrell Walker's grandfather Simon Walker, third from left.

cut firewood with my uncles. I remember carrying axes and saws out into snowy woods, but I didn't mind because I loved being out-of-doors.

When I was in 6th grade, Grandpa took the lumber from the long-abandoned Kullihoma schoolhouse and built two bedrooms. They connected to the house by a roof but not a hallway. My grandma had attended that school. (It was constructed in the 1930s.) Later a bathroom was added, but for some reason the hot water heater never worked. I don't know why we never got it fixed; maybe no money for that. But it was no big deal cause we'd never had hot water anyway.

Other Indian families lived in the area, the Kilcreases, Holdens, Johnsons and grandpa's brothers, Dude and Dave, both had places nearby. Willie Byars grew a big vegetable garden over by the lagoon and we used to ride our horses over to visit with him. We had our own vegetable garden but it didn't provide a lot of food because it had no source of irrigation except us. We carried five gallon buckets of water over from the well.

Our house was really a kind of central meeting place. People would just stop by and sit around outside and talk, usually speaking in Chickasaw. Sometimes, Grandpa would start preaching, just spontaneously, and the gathering would turn into a church service. He also preached in Chickasaw every Sunday and Wednesday at the Calvary Methodist Church or at other churches.

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For the time (the seventies), I would say I was raised the Indian way. Grandpa used to make ball sticks and so we'd play around the house or over at Happyland, Adam Walker's place. I never saw any of the old ceremonies. My grandma told us about how the doctor (her grandfather, Jonah Alexander) had conducted the *Pashofa* (healing) ceremony and led the stomp dances. These were very spiritual ceremonies and involved medicine gathered and prepared by him. I didn't ask a lot of questions then, but when I got older I wanted to know more about tribal culture. I started listening and reading. I joined the tribal dance troupe in 1992. I've participated in recent stomp dances at Kullihoma, but they are social and don't have any spiritual significance, at least to me.

My grandparents almost always spoke Chickasaw to one another. They both knew English, but they preferred their first language. They taught us English and Chickasaw, but didn't insist that we speak Chickasaw. Don't know why. So, they'd speak to us in Chickasaw, but after I'd started going to school I'd answer in English. I can still understand Grandma's Chickasaw pretty well, but I can't speak it and I wish that I could. The only way I could learn it now is to be around others who speak it, but I don't know many my age who are fluent and fewer still are willing to spend the time teaching it.

Grandpa spoke Chickasaw and English. He was a very Christian man; he read the Bible every night. But he was also an Indian doctor. The only one in the area as far as I knew. He helped a lot of Chickasaws and members of other tribes and even some non-Indians. He (Simon) would sometimes take me with him when he gathered certain herbs. I think he hoped I'd learn how to be a doctor, but I wasn't much interested. I'm sure he believed in the Little People; they showed doctors how to use the medicine. But he didn't talk about them much and I never saw them.

I do remember seeing him work when he was doctoring people. For example, he'd take a coal from the woodstove and sprinkle tobacco on it. Then he'd blow on it, spread the smoke with a pie pan and pray. He strongly believed in the power of prayer. Sometimes, he would attach tobacco to a string and have the person wear it like a necklace for several days He also used sassafras as a tea and used the roots of certain trees for certain ailments.

He and grandma both told me that the world also has bad doctors and they'd point them out to me. Not so I'd avoid them, just so I'd know. They called them *stegini* (spelling unsure) or shape shifters and said they could turn themselves into animals, which could represent certain omens.

Except when I was in school at Allen (about 8 miles away), I was outside from early in the morning until dark because I liked being close to nature. It

See **Oral History:** ***Darrell Walker,*** *page 29*

Purcell Senior Site welcoming place for 'family' to gather

Site member Helen Parnacher volunteers in the kitchen helping prepare Indian tacos for a site fundraiser.

If there is one word to describe the ladies and gentlemen who frequent the Purcell Senior Site, that word would have to be "family."

Not only do these people love and care for each other, but laugh and joke like siblings too. They have made this senior center their home away from home.

The site even feels like a home upon entering the front door. The seniors are greeted by a cozy living room complete with couch and chairs, piano and Native American art made by site members.

There's a dining room, kitchen, computer room, game room and even a patio out back where they can sit by the fountain on breezy, summer days.

But it's not the furnishings that make this place a home. It's definitely the people.

"This is just a great group of men and women," says Purcell Senior Site Manager Nina Crossley. "We all get along and are really concerned about each other."

Site member Earnest Guess echoed her sentiment, "We get along really well here."

"We never have any friction… except maybe the husbands and wives," he joked.

Guess went on to say, "This is the finest group of people I've every known."

The feeling seemed to be mutual among all the members. Floyd Parnacher, who frequents the site with his wife Helen, says he comes to the center just to relax and talk to people.

"Everybody treats me so well," Parnacher stated. "I enjoy just hanging around."

However, Parnacher does a lot more than just hang around. His artwork is displayed all around the center and he even sells some of his sketches to help raise money to fund trips that the seniors take throughout the year.

The Parnachers also volunteer, as many of the site members do, to help around the center with other fund raisers like Indian taco sales and craft sales.

The group tries to take a trip or two every year and have recently traveled to Missouri, New Mexico, Mississippi and are working on a trip to Colorado in the spring.

Ethel Brooksher says she comes to the center each week because she likes all the people and enjoys playing SkipBo and dominoes with friends.

"Everyone here acts like they really want to see you," she said. "They just treat you so nice and Nina and her husband, Lee, are the best."

What Brooksher has discovered, as have so many others at the center, is that they really do look forward to seeing each other, and miss each other when gone.

Site member Ruby Adkins, a Pit River Indian transplanted from California, said about her new Chickasaw friends, "I've asked several of them for a blood transfusion. None of them have taken me up on it yet."

However, if blood is thicker than water, then the transfusion has already been made. Because one thing is for sure, this group of vibrant, active, wise and caring people makes sure everyone feels welcomed in their home. After all, that's what family does.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Hank Ivester checks his blood pressure using the monitor located at the senior site.

John Norvell, Larry Brooksher, Corky Somers and Joe Roberts work together chopping tomatoes for an Indian taco sale. Virginia Sullivan and Betty Robinson are also working hard in the background.

Floyd Parnacher has several of his original paintings and artwork displayed around the senior site.

Purcell Senior Site members Shirley Duncan and Earnest Guess talk and laugh with each other after lunch.

Listening Conference draws over 500 Chickasaws to unique event

OKLAHOMA CITY - Approximately 500 Chickasaw citizens who reside outside the tribe's jurisdictional boundaries gathered at the Cox Convention Center here to take part in the first ever Chickasaw Nation Listening Conference, February 12 - 14.

Chickasaws from New Hampshire to Oregon to Texas and beyond gathered to share and discuss how the tribe might effectively design programs and services to meet the greatest needs of Chickasaws around the nation.

The groundbreaking endeavor took place in part because, for the first time in history, the Chickasaw Nation is in the position to begin offering these programs.

"This has never been done before," Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby said, "and we are excited about what transpired during the conference. We look forward to putting our citizens' ideas into motion."

Two days of breakout sessions focused on specific areas of interest in aging, education, health care and housing. By the end of the conference, five top priorities had been determined in each area.

Other highlights of the conference included an address from Governor Anoatubby, entertainment by the Chickasaw Children's Choir and Chickasaw Seniors Choir, dancing with the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe, and exhibit booths. Former State Rep. Danny Hilliard, of Sulphur, served as master of ceremonies.

Information gathered during the conference is being evaluated and will be reported to citizens upon completion. Future plans will be announced as they are approved and programs are developed.

"There is much to be done," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We will continue working together as a nation to insure that our citizens' needs are met.

"This is a great time in the Chickasaw Nation, and we will make this historic effort a reality."

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Citizens were encouraged to visit the Listening Conference exhibit hall to find out more information and talk with staff members about available services. Hundreds of participants took advantage of the opportunity each day and were able to have questions answered and become more familiar with each tribal division.

The Chickasaw Nation Health System offered free health screenings to conference participants. Staff members were also on hand to answer questions and offer expert advice on health related issues.

During each session, participants were able to divide up into small groups to discuss topics such as aging, education, health care and housing. Several groups "brainstormed" and came up with new ideas and suggestions to help better serve citizens.

Newcastle Pacer nets top award from Oklahoma Press

Newcastle Pacer staff members display awards the tribally-owned newspaper received during the recent Oklahoma Press Association convention. From left are Jeannie Hodges, Wes Wilson, Kelly Wray, Jeff Leyerle, Kim Noe, Nancy Rimassa, Natalie Hoffman and Darla Welchel.

The tribally-owned community weekly newspaper *the Newcastle (OK) Pacer* was recently recognized as the top Oklahoma newspaper in its circulation category.

The Pacer received the Sequoyah Award for general excellence during February's mid-winter convention of the Oklahoma Press Association.

The Pacer and 16 other community papers in the 1,000-1,800 paid circulation category competed in 14 separate categories. *The Pacer* took first place in the community leadership, layout and design, and news content categories. It scored a number of second- and third-places in other categories and its point total netted the Sequoyah Award.

"We are proud of *the Pacer* and the excellent work our newspaper staff is doing in the Newcastle area," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "*The Pacer* provides an excellent weekly newspaper for the community and we are excited about the recognition the staff has received from Oklahoma Press."

The contest entries were judged by newspaper professionals from the Oregon Press Association.

The Newcastle Pacer serves the community of Newcastle and surrounding area. The community is located in far northern McClain County, Oklahoma, the northernmost point of the Chickasaw Nation.

Tribal Nutrition Services part of HealthierUS initiative

Nutrition Services staff member Mary Tyson demonstrates simple exercises using a DynaBand that was given to each participant at a monthly meeting. The staff participates in planned physical activities each month designed to promote fitness and a healthier lifestyle.

The employees of Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services are taking steps to a healthier lifestyle. The department has chosen to implement President George W. Bush's HealthierUS initiative among its staff.

President Bush first began his HealthierUS initiative in 2003. The goal of the program is to encourage Americans to live longer, better and healthier lives. The initiative helps Americans take steps to improve personal health and fitness and encourages all Americans to be physically active every day, eat a nutritious diet, get preventative screenings and make healthy choices.

There are currently 46 nutrition services staff members participating in the initiative and many other departments have expressed interest. Pre-evaluations were given to each participant where he/she was asked about current activity, exercise habits, physical activity, water consumption and fruit and vegetable consumption. A post-assessment will also be taken to compare results upon completion. Participants were also asked to sign a contract and set goals for themselves that relate to physical activity, nutrition, prevention and safe choices.

Alicson Scott, Randy Wade and Neva Harjochee, all employees of Nutrition Services, are heading up the initiative.

"This initiative was needed because of obesity, diabetes and heart disease, which is especially high in Native American populations," Scott said. "We want to try to help people not become a statistic. We want to start with our employees in hopes that they will go home and share with their families."

Each participant was also asked to have a buddy to act as a cheerleader to help them reach their goals. Participants track their individual progress on calendars that are turned in each month. The calendars track physical activity which can vary from cleaning house, walking with a friend or playing with your kids and small steps, like trying new fruits and vegetables.

Harjochee has had personal success in the past year and wanted to help others do the same. Her husband was diagnosed with pre-diabetes in August 2004 and they decided to do something about it!

"The HealthierUS initiative was something that I really got excited about," Harjochee stated. "We received counseling with the diabetes center, a workout plan from the wellness program and nutrition education from the Get Fresh program that has changed our lives."

Together, the Harjochees have lost over 75 pounds and have kept it off for over a year.

One of the biggest aspects of the HealthierUS initiative is prevention. Preventing disease can cut health care costs later in life. To help in this effort, the HealthierUS team has also worked closely with Chickasaw Nation Community Health Representatives (CHR) to set up screenings at monthly nutrition services meetings.

The CHRs check blood pressure and blood sugars. Scott also hopes to have blood cholesterol and bone density tested in each participant. There is also a planned physical activity at each meeting. For example, participants were given a pedometer in October so that they could track their steps and at the January meeting, participants were given DynaBands and guided through a series of exercises.

Participants like Marvin Walls are already seeing amazing results. Walls has lost 70 pounds since beginning his job with nutrition services by increasing his physical activity, cutting portion sizes and making healthy food choices.

The nutrition services staff has found that the HealthierUS initiative is all about making lifestyle changes. The program encourages participants to:

- **Be Realistic** – Make small changes over time in food choices and activity level. After all, small steps work better than giant leaps.
- **Be Adventurous** – Expand tastes to enjoy a variety of foods. Try new vegetables and fruits.
- **Be Flexible** – Go ahead and balance what you eat and physical activity over several days. No need to worry about just one meal or one day.
- **Be Sensible** – Enjoy all foods, just don't overdo it. Plan ahead.
- **Be Active** – Walk with your family or take the dog for a walk. Get moving. By implementing these steps, one can be on their way to a healthier, longer and happier life!

If you are interested in learning more about the HealthierUS initiative or any nutrition services programs, please contact Alicson Scott at (580) 272-5506.

Nutrition Services employees Sandy Harjo and Matt McDonald play basketball during their lunch break to stay active and get exercise. Employees participating in the HealthierUS initiative were asked to sign a contract and set goals for themselves that relate to physical activity, nutrition, prevention and safe choices.

Chattanooga Presentation

Kennedy Brown, Special Assistant to the Governor, receives a certificate recognizing Governor Bill Anoatubby as an honorary citizen of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The certificate is presented by Chattanooga city council members Marilyn Harrison, Shelley Andrews and Sally Robinson.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby was named an honorary citizen of Chattanooga, Tennessee during a February ceremony. Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield and Chattanooga city council chairman Sally Robinson presented the award.

Kennedy Brown, Special Assistant to the Governor, received the special presentation from Robinson and fellow council members Shelley Andrews and Marilyn Harrison during their recent visit to the Chickasaw Nation Headquarters.

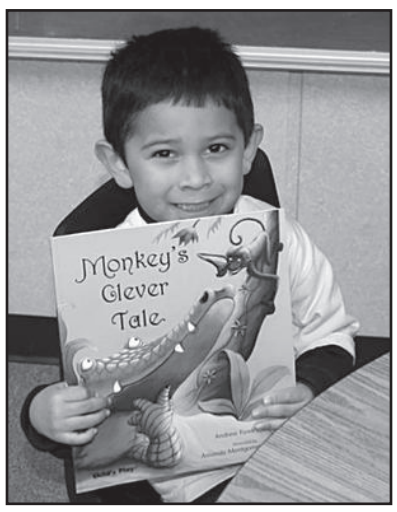
The recognition was bestowed upon Governor Anoatubby as an "expression of goodwill and friendship from the people of Chattanooga, Tennessee." Gov. Anoatubby was also presented a key to the city.

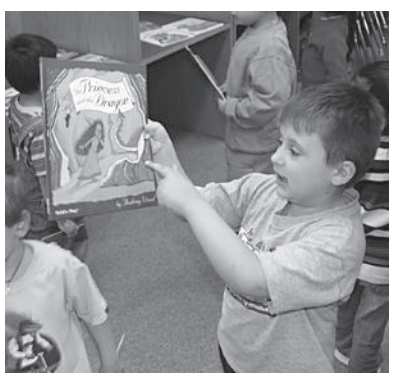
"It is an honor to receive this recognition on behalf of our Chickasaw citizens" Governor Anoatubby said. "We value the land that our ancestors once called home, and are pleased to continue building a relationship with the people of Chattanooga."

Robinson said the city council is working with several tribes in an effort to learn more about preserving the American Indian homelands in their area.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Head Starts celebrate Reading is Fundamental (RIF)





Chickasaw WWII blimp pilot takes turn in Goodyear ship

Marion Whitfield, who logged more than 1,200 hours flight time in Lighter Than Air K-Ships (blimps) in World War II, recently had the opportunity to take to the air once more.

Mr. Whitfield recently traveled to Pompano Beach, Florida, where he had the chance to fly in one of the Goodyear blimps.

"Flying in the blimp was the highlight of the trip, said Mr. Whitfield. "The pilot let me take over the controls and fly it. He said he could tell I had flown blimps before."

Mr. Whitfield received the invitation when Goodyear learned of his experience flying blimps in World War II.

As a member of an LTA crew in WWII, Mr. Whitfield escorted convoys of ships loaded with troops, equipment and supplies up and down the west coast.

Prior to the implementation of the LTA program, Japanese and German submarines menaced the U.S. coast line.

Japanese subs roamed the Pacific coast, even going so far as attacking oil derricks off the California coast in February 1942, while German U-boats sunk more than 400 vessels off the Atlantic Coast the same year.

Subs rarely attacked convoys after the implementation of blimps, and they never lost one of the more than 89,000 ships they escorted during the war.

Although manning the .50 caliber machine gun was his primary duty, Whitfield learned the piloting and navigation skills necessary to bring the blimp to the home base and land it if necessary.

"I had a pilot that was real nice to me. And he let me learn how to fly those things," said Mr. Whitfield.

Marion Whitfield, right, and brother Jack Whitfield with Gerald Hissem, Spirit of Goodyear senior pilot.

While the K-Ships Mr. Whitfield manned during the war were more than twice the size of the Goodyear blimps of today, today's blimps are considerably more sophisticated.

"There were a lot more instruments in that Goodyear blimp, but flying it wasn't really that much different," said Mr. Whitfield.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Chilocco reunion set for June

The Chilocco National Alumni Association's (CNAA) annual reunion is scheduled for June 9, 10, & 11, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel, 10918 E. 41st St. in Tulsa, Okla., according to Jim Baker, 1960 graduate of Chilocco and President of the association.

This annual gathering, unfortunately, is getting smaller each year, as Chilocco no longer produces graduates. The youngest graduate is 42 years old and when you subtract this from the average longevity of life for an American Indian, you can determine the approximate year when Chilocco graduates will be extinct, Baker said.

Activities will begin at 7 a.m. Friday with a golf scramble tournament at the Cherokee Hills Golf Club in Catoosa.

The afternoon schedule include an Indian style show, talent show, and a performance by the Cherokee Nation Children's Choir. Attendees are encouraged to wear their tribal attire and join Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith and Mrs. Smith as they participate in the style show. A pow wow will close out the Friday evening activities.

The activities on Saturday morning begin at 7 a.m. with the traditional

Veterans Breakfast. The General Alumni Business meeting follows at 10 a.m. A national pool tournament at Magoo's Restaurant and Billiard, beginning at noon, is a new addition to activities. The traditional alumni banquet will begin at 5 p.m. followed by the Hall of Fame induction.

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Chief Enoch Kelly Haney, a famous artist, a former state Senator and candidate for Governor, will be an honored guest and assist with the Hall of Fame induction of 1966 graduate Mitchell Cypress, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Mr. George England, Class of 1954, an entrepreneur now residing in Kansas City, will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame. A ballroom dance will close out the evening activities.

A Memorabilia Room will be open during the reunion. Yearbooks from all school years, pictures and various Chilocco items will be displayed.

Chilocco, located in Kay County Oklahoma, south of Arkansas City, Kansas, opened in 1884. It was one of the largest and most diverse Indian schools in the United States with an enrollment, during its peak years, of over 1,200 students. The students came from all tribes and all reservations and Indian communities in the U.S. The school was closed in 1980.

According to Baker, Chilocco graduates are represented in all areas of the country, in all professions and many hold, or have held, tribal, state and national leadership positions as exemplified by Chairman Cypress.

All students, former employees and friends are invited to attend and participate. Arts and craft booth space are available. Cost for booth space and reunion information may be obtained by calling James Edward at 918 742-1549.

Chickasaw CHRs help kids 'Get Smart'

Chickasaw Nation Community Health Representatives are helping educate area children and parents about the proper use of antibiotics by participating in the Centers for Disease Control "Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work" campaign.

As part of the campaign, two representatives from the CDC in Atlanta came to see Purcell area CHR Tammy Blevins-Purser deliver a presentation on proper use of antibiotics to area school children.

Patricia Cook, CDC Public Health Advisor and Darcia Johnson, CDC Multicultural Outreach Coordinator were invited to the Chickasaw Nation by Dione Harjo, Oklahoma Area Indian Health Service CHR Consultant.

"I invited them because the Chickasaw Nation is doing really good work," said Ms. Harjo.

During her presentation to school children in Pauls Valley, Ms. Purser explained that antibiotics only fight bacterial infections and should not be used for colds or flu.

She also explained that children should always take all the antibiotics prescribed by the doctor, even if they feel better before the medicine is gone.

Explaining that germs are everywhere, she also gave the children instructions on proper hand washing technique.

Students used cotton-ball "soap" to kill the "germs" on Tammy Blevins-Purser during her presentation on the smart use of antibiotics at Pauls Valley Jefferson Early Learning Center.

Ms. Purser also provided a handout explaining proper use of antibiotics for children to take home to their parents.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

'Get Smart': Use antibiotics properly

- Antibiotics only fight bacterial infection and should only be taken when needed
- Antibiotics will not work for a cold or the flu
- Germs called viruses cause colds and the flu
- Antibiotics do not fight viruses
- Only your health care provider can determine whether an illness is bacterial or viral
- When you receive a prescription for antibiotics, take the full course of medicine
- Using antibiotics when not needed can contribute to bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics
- Antibiotic resistance can be a health threat to the entire community

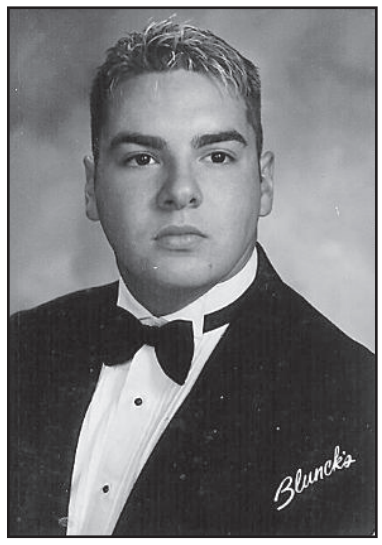
Scholarship recipients named

Amber Tamez

Congratulations to Ms. Amber Tamez and Mr. Edward K. Philley III, recently selected as the 2005-2006 recipients of the Mary K. Moreland and Daniel T. Jenks Scholarship and Pearl Carter Scott Aviation Scholarship respectively.

Amber is from Tishomingo, Okla., the daughter of Mike and Rita Dunn of Tishomingo. Amber now lives in Caney, Okla., with her husband, Bubba, who coaches boy's basketball and baseball. They are members of Voca Baptist Church. She graduated from Tishomingo High School in 2002, received an Associate in Science Degree from Murray State College in 2004, and currently attends SOSU as an elementary education major.

Edward is from Bixby, Okla., and the son of Adrian and Shirley Stone of Bixby and Edward and Shanda Philley of Azel, Texas. Edward graduated from Decatur High School, Decatur, Texas, in 2001. He has earned his wings as a commercial single engine pilot at Oxford University-Tyler International School of Aviation in February 2003. He is attending Tulsa Community College and Oklahoma State University to complete his undergraduate hours for a bachelor's degree in aviation.



Edward Philley, III

He is employed full-time at the Christiansen Jet Center as a private instrument and commercial flight instructor for the Richard Lloyd Jones airport in Tulsa.

He is a member of the Civil Air Patrol #3664979 and Victory Christian Church of Tulsa.

Sheilla Brashier named Foundation board member

Congratulations to Mrs. Sheilla Brashier, Director of Special Events for the Chickasaw Nation. She has been selected to serve on the Chickasaw Foundation Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Brashier has been associated with the Chickasaw Foundation for many years and recently served as a general board member. She is excited to be appointed to the Board and eager to serve in the position as a trustee. Welcome to our team!

Sheilla Brashier

Chickasaw Foundation Board of Trustees Elects New Officers

The Chickasaw Foundation Board of Trustees elected new officers during its Special Meeting on February 2, 2006 in the Governor's Room located in the Wellness Center at East Central University.

Mr. Kennedy Brown was elected Chairman; Ms. Deanna Hartley-Kelso, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Wesley D. Brantley, Treasurer; and Mr. Kirk Perry, Secretary.

The Chickasaw Foundation would like to express its appreciation to the outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication.

The good work of the Employee Charitable Contribution Plan

Phyllis Avanzini

The Employee Charitable Contribution Plan allows Chickasaw Nation employees the opportunity to donate to local charities and organizations through the Chickasaw Foundation.

Ms. Phyllis Avanzini, an employee of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth and Family Services, has been donating to the program since it was implemented.

"My parents always set a great example of reaching out to others no matter their own personal circumstances and encouraged their children to do the same. Their philosophy has proven true – it is a wise investment to give back to your community and I love helping people. Working in Youth and Family Services has shown me the positive results of the Foundation's work – it helps put good intentions into action!"

Chickasaw Foundation in touch with Chickasaws during Listening Conference

The Chickasaw Foundation participated in the Listening Conference on February 12-14, 2006 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Staff members Susan Webb and Tracie Carter handed out brochures and scholarship applications to those participating in the conference.

If you would like additional information on the Chickasaw Foundation, you may call their office at (580) 421-9030.

Chickasaw Foundation Scholarships

The 2006-2007 Chickasaw Foundation Scholarship application is now available on the web sites of the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw Foundation at www.chickasaw.net or www.chickasawfoundation.org respectively. The following are the scholarships available this year.

- Colbert "Bud" Baker Scholarship
- Bank2 Banking Scholarship – In Memory of Mr. Robert Walton
- Bank2 Ta'ossaa-asha' Scholarship
- Computercraft Corporation Scholarship
- Ann Eubank Health Scholarship
- Donald D. Gunning Memorial Scholarship
- Janet Shaley James Memorial Scholarship
- Edward L. Kruger Memorial Ittish Aaisha Scholarship
- Mary K. Moreland & Daniel T. Jenks Scholarship
- Robert L. Walton Memorial Scholarship
- Chickasaw Foundation General Purpose Education Scholarship
- Native American Fund Advisors Scholarship
- Frederick L. Hill – The Hill Group Scholarship
- Vinnie May Humes Memorial Scholarship
- Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship
- Wesley D. Brantley, Jr. Scholarship
- Judicial Scholarship – Law Student Scholarship
- John Bennett Herrington Scholarship
- Irene C. Howard Memorial Scholarship
- Mitch Musgrove Memorial Scholarship

Upward Bound students study Omniplex displays

The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound students went to the Omniplex in Oklahoma City for their January meeting and enjoyed lunch at Applebee's. Students viewed several exhibits that were on display including "Richardson's Fractal Art Exhibit." Fractal art is the visual depiction of complex mathematical equations created with a computer. Another exhibit titled "Explorazone" allowed students to create cloud rings, make shapes disappear, get disks and rings to stand on edge and see the illusion of movement. The students also enjoyed an Omnidome show called "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag." This was a behind-the-scenes look into what it takes to put together a modern air force mission.

From left, Upward Bound students Rebecca Moore, Christie Coughenor, Ashley Talbot and Angela Moore.

Students attending were Kayla Bertwell, Shellan Gray, Isaac Newton, Nicholas Lambert, Kathryn Robertson, Jerry Rojas, Dustin Rowton, Joshua Sisco, Jacob Standridge, Kosandra Yates, Justin Dillard, Kasi Morgan, Stephanie Gutendorf, Tosha Deal, Heather Baker, Taylor Britt, John Cobble, Sheimika Davis, Rebecca Moore, Jenifer Pedigo, Amanda Riley, Amanda Sanner, Ashley Talbott, Annester Wilson, Armon Wilson, Justin Rowell, Christie Coughenor, Sirena Adams, Amanda Brantley, Justin Costley, Chelsie Courtney, Elizabeth Elliott, Camelia Hamil, Kristina Jones, Cynthia Lozano, Lilnita Lozano, Angela Moore, Janie Sampson, Jeremy Webb, Jessica Willis, Hanna Wolf, Andrea Brumley and Jessica Fels. Staff sponsors were Tracey Vasquez, Rebecca Easterling, Susan Webb, Machelle Ellis and Rici Love.

American Indian Museum offers programs for Indian artists, others

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) works in collaboration with Native people to protect and foster indigenous cultures, reaffirm traditions and beliefs, encourage contemporary artistic expression and provide a forum for Native voices.

NMAI's Community Services Department is a cornerstone of the mseum's commitment to outreach, providing a vital link between NMAI and Native communities.

If you are an individual, organization or other Native entity engaged in artistic work, or any number of Native endeavors, you may want to become involved in a project with NMAI.

Through internships, Native arts programs, professional training, radio programming and the internet, the Community Services Department shares the museum's resources with Native communities and audiences throughout the U.S.

For more information, please visit the NMAI website at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu and click on "outreach" at the top of the homepage.

The NMAI Community Services Program Guide offers information in print.

Chickasaw Nation Rep in Chickasha

A Chickasaw Nation representative will be in Chickasha on March 21* to answer questions about tribal programs.

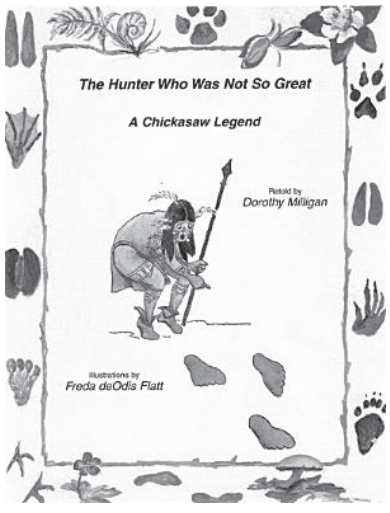
To find out more information, or to apply for tribal elderly energy assistance, tribal emergency utility assistance, energy assistance, community health representatives, or other programs, visit Bettie Black at Oklahoma Workforce, 301 S. 2nd Street from 3 to 5 p.m.

A tribal representative will be available for questions at Oklahoma Workforce the third Monday of each month. *March's visit will take place on Tuesday due to holiday closings.

For more information, call (405) 527-6667.

The Hunter Who Was Not So Great:

A Chickasaw Legend The Hunter Who Was Not So Great centers around a brave hunter who becomes a little too confident in his abilities and must learn the lesson of not bragging. This lesson is delivered by Ihoff, the giant who lives deep in the forest and possesses strange powers including a "secret weapon."



You can receive a FREE copy of this book with your $25 donation to the Chickasaw Foundation. Complete the order form below and mail, with your donation, to the Foundation at P.O. 1726, Ada, OK 74821-1726 or visit our office at 110 West 12th Street in Ada.

Name:: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State:_____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone Number: ( ) _____

Native American Junior Open

Lakeview Golf Course
Ardmore, Oklahoma
May 30, 2006

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.
Tee times start at 9:00 a.m.
Open to Native American students ages eight to 18

Entry fee is $15 per participant and includes green fees, lunch and range balls.
All participants must have a CDIB card and present their card at registration.
The top six Chickasaw and the top six Choctaw students will qualify for participation in the National Native American Junior Golf Championships.

For more information, contact Chris Alford at (580) 272-5551.

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Chickasaw Citizen

Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame nominations being accepted

Nomination deadline for the 2006 class of the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame is growing closer. Nominations must be received at the Chickasaw Nation Headquarters by the end of business March 10, 2006.

Nominations of living or deceased individuals will be accepted for consideration.

Nominees must have distinguished themselves in their business, profession, craft, or vocation, thereby bringing honor to the Chickasaw Nation, and/or have made outstanding contributions to the Chickasaw Nation or society in general.

Inductees must be a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation or be eligible to become a citizen of the Nation.

Elected officials of the Chickasaw nation are not eligible for induction into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame while holding office.

Inductees must commit to being present for the induction ceremonies, which are tentatively scheduled August 11, 2006.

A nomination for is available on the Chickasaw Nation Website. www.chickasaw.net

Native American Language featured at Youth Fair

NORMAN, Okla. - Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the fourth annual Oklahoma American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma.

Participants of all ages may demonstrate their language skills in the spoken language and language with music or dance categories. Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12, film/video/multi-media category open to sixth-through 12th-graders; and a language advocacy essay category open to students in grades nine through 12.

This statewide competition draws more than 500 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states that compete in as many as 18 Native American languages. Due to high numbers of participants, this year's fair will expand to two days, with pre-k through fifth-grade competitions on Thursday, March 23 and sixth-through 12th-grade competitions on Friday, March 24. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center.

"The fair provides a wonderful atmosphere of sharing and support for both the students and the teachers who participate," said language fair coordinator Mary Linn, curator of Native American Languages at the museum. "From the beginning the fair has been about encouraging the study of Native languages and making it fun. The growth we have seen in our numbers over just four years seems to say that we have succeeded in that. The students have a great time and meet others from across the region who are also interested in studying Native Languages."

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the language performance and spoken language competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, "Speak in Beauty," and Native authors will judge the books. Every student who participates will receive an award.

Registration forms and additional information are available online at the museum's web site: www.snomnh.edu. Deadline for registration is March 8. To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588.

Nomination Form
CHICKASAW NATION HALL OF FAME
For 2006 Nominees

Eligibility Requirements

The Chickasaw Nation accepts nominations of both living and deceased individuals who meet the eligibility requirements outlined below to be considered for induction into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame.

To be eligible to receive this high honor, the nominee must have distinguished themselves in their business, profession, craft, or vocation, thereby bringing honor to the Chickasaw Nation, and/or have made outstanding contributions to the Chickasaw Nation or society in general. Inductees must be a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation or be eligible to become a citizen of the Nation.

Individuals selected for induction into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame must commit to being present for the induction ceremony or they can not be inducted that year. Elected officials of the Chickasaw Nation are ineligible for induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame while holding office.

Deadline for 2006 Nominations

Nominations must be received by March 10, 2006 for consideration in 2006.

Name of Person Being Nominated (Include Maiden Name, if Applicable)

Contact Information for Nominee

Mailing address: _____

_____

_____

City State Zip Code

Telephone number(s): _____

Name and contact Information of Person submitting Nomination

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City State Zip Code

Telephone Number(s) _____

Seconding Letters

Seconding Letters are not encouraged unless they provide additional relevant information. No more than two seconding letters should be submitted.

Submitting Nominations

Nominations must be sent to the following address:

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
Chickasaw Nation
P. O. Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74820

Information to be Submitted with Nomination

Please use the space below to provide a concise statement as to why this nominee should be inducted in the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame.

In addition, please attach additional information providing basic biographical information on the nominee and detailing relevant past and present activities, accomplishments, awards, and/or special honors that the nominee has received. Biographical sketches, resumes, vitas, newspaper or magazine articles also may be submitted to support the nomination.

'Its About Money'

Spring is time for house hunting 'open season'

By ROSS HILL
CEO
Bank2

Spring is almost here and for many that means house hunting season is just around the corner. As spring fever begins to hit high gear you might be wondering just how much house you can afford.

At Bank2 we have an entire Native American lending department devoted to meeting the needs of Indian Country. In fact Bank2 has been recognized by HUD as the number one HUD 184 mortgage lender to Native Americans in Oklahoma. When you originate as many home loans as we do you have the opportunity to answer a lot of questions. Here are just a few of the more common mortgage questions that come our way.

1. Can I really afford a home instead of renting?

Why rent when you could own your own home? Like many people who are currently renting, you may be surprised to learn that monthly house payments can be very close to the same you are paying in rent each month! Why? Because mortgage rates continue at all time lows, many would be renters are now stepping into new homes.

Here is a general rule to consider *(depending on several factors)*. Your monthly house payment can be estimated to be some where close to one percent of the cost of your home. For example: If your house costs $50,000 your monthly house payment could be estimated at approximately $500.

2. Can I qualify for a home loan?

Do you have a steady job? Do you have a social security number? Do I have decent credit? If you answered YES to these questions then you owe it to yourself to take the next step in discovering if you qualify for a home loan! We not only serve Native Americans, we are Native American at Bank2 and there is no one we enjoy serving more than our fellow tribe members. It really is as easy as picking up the phone or going to our web site.

3. What kind of home can I afford?

The size and location of your home have much to do with the price of a home. As a very broad and general rule of thumb, determining the cost of a home you can afford can be estimated by doubling - tripling your annual household income.

For example: If your annual household income is $30,000 you could possibly purchase a home in the $60,000 - $90,000 range. If your annual household income is $40,000 you could possibly purchase a home in the $80,000 - $120,000 range.

While this is a very simplified way of getting an idea regarding the type of home you can afford, it is a good starting point for most people. Like many, you might be surprised at just how nice of a home you can own… not rent!

4. Do I have to have a down payment?

Having a down payment is helpful in many ways. Your down payment can help reduce your loan rate and monthly payment. Regardless, there are many home loan programs designed especially with Native Americans in mind that can assist you with a down payment.

Bank2 is dedication to providing financing for housing opportunities for low-to-moderate income individuals in Native America.

I often receive thank-you letters from the folks we serve. As you read excerpts from a few of those letters below, you will see why we are passionate about serving Native America.

"I wanted to 'Thank You' and the Bank2 family for making my dreams come true. I never thought that I could buy a home on my own, and you made it happen. The process from the first time I spoke to you until the time we closed was so easy and you made it simple. Being Native American helped me get the loan and the home I always wanted."

"Thank you so much. You do make dreams come true!" D. C.

"I am writing you to let you know how very pleased we are to be doing business with Bank2. A local bank had turned us down. I heard Bank2 was having a meeting to help Indian people. My husband and I went to the meeting. During the next few weeks I talked with several people at Bank2 that helped us get everything together to get the loan through."

"Because of your caring and wonderful staff, it feels like a black cloud has been lifted. Our Lord has used you to take care of his people and we will be forever thankful. God bless you."

The Duncans

Bank2 is owned 100% by the Chickasaw Nation and is focused on becoming the nation's most premier minority-owned, Native American financial institution. To learn more about how to take advantage of the many great financial services and home loan programs designed especially for Native Americans at Bank2, call toll-free nationwide, 1-877-409-2265 or visit our Web site at www.bank2.biz

Ross A. Hill is president-CEO of Bank2. Bank2 is a growing $85 million full service financial institution with headquarters in Oklahoma City, Okla. Bank2 is owned 100% by the Chickasaw Nation. It's About Money is published monthly by Bank2 as a financial service to members of the Chickasaw Nation.

Savannah River Chickasaws discussed during March 13 meeting in Ada

By RICHARD GREEN
Contributing Writer

A history professor who is writing a book on the Savannah River Chickasaws will discuss them and their place in tribal history at the Headquarters building on March 13. Dr. Edward Cashin will present "Straddling the Dividing Line: The Savannah River Chickasaws," in the Large Conference Room from 9 to 10 a.m.

Tribal employees and the public are invited.

Cashin's title refers to the fact that the Savannah River divided the colony of Carolina from Indian country, which in 1733 became the colony of Georgia. "Of several tribes who at one time lived in the area, the Chickasaws were the only one to bridge both sides successfully," said Cashin. "And they served as a link to their brothers in the homeland."

British records indicate that a group of Chickasaws led by Squirrel King accepted an invitation from Carolina officials in 1723 to settle by the Savannah River near the modern city of Augusta, Georgia, where Cashin lives. The Chickasaws lived in the area until the early 1770s before their descendants returned to the tribal homelands.

For additional background information on these Chickasaws, see the article on page 18 of the January 2006 issue of the *Times*.

In addition to Dr. Cashin's presentation, he will be visiting the Nation and doing research pertinent to his book from March 12-15.

Until his retirement, Cashin was chairman of the history department at Augusta State University. He founded and directs the Center for the Study of Georgia History. He has written several books and articles on the colonial period. His book most relevant to Chickasaw history is *Lachlan McGillivray, Indian Trader, and the Shaping of the Southern Colonial Frontier.*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the conservation agency for the USDA and works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private and Tribal lands.

NRCS provides the following services:

- Natural resource assessments
- Conservation planning assistance
- Technical assistance for conservation practices
- Cost share programs for conservation work

Please contact your local USDA Service Center or Tribal Resource Conservationist. The local NRCS office also works in cooperation with your local Conservation District. Visit Oklahoma's website at www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov for information on conservation programs and services available.

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.

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January 2006 Students of the Month

Students of the Month have been selected for January 2006 in all four districts of the Chickasaw Nation.

Up to 24 awards are presented each month, as male and female student of the month awards are available in elementary, middle school and high school in each of the four districts of the Chickasaw Nation.

Each student of the month receives a recognition plaque and a $25 Wal-Mart gift certificate.

All Native American students with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) in grades one through 12 attending participating schools in the Chickasaw nation are eligible for student of the month.

Students are nominated by teachers, counselors, JOM coordinators, principals or other school personnel in recognition of academic accomplishments, leadership qualities, positive attitude, work ethic, citizenship and other criteria.

Following are students of the month, along with selected comments from those who nominated each student.

Student of the Month in the Tishomingo District are **Shaalynn Stepps**, Milburn Elementary, **Jacob Miller**, Ravia Elementary, **Danielle Dameron**, Tishomingo Jr. High.

"I feel Shaalynn Stepps should be selected for Student of the Month because of her outstanding performance in the classroom," said Christa Heyman. "She is a straight A student and she works hard to achieve her reading points for the Pizza Hut Book-It and Braum's reading programs. She strives to do her best in everything she does. She is a wonderful leader in our classroom and sets a great example for her fellow classmates. I am very proud to nominate Shaalynn for Student of the Month."

"Jacob Miller is a very sweet boy who enjoys life. He loves to be around people and helps out anyway he can," said Debbie Akins.

Danielle Dameron

"Danielle Dameron is an excellent student," said Donna Owens. "She works hard and is responsible to bring all materials and work in to class. Danielle is polite and kind to peers and teachers. Her positive attitude towards school and learning is evident in her class participation."

Students of the Month for the Pickens District are **Selina Whitener**, Wilson Elementary, **Jordon Standridge**, Comanche Jr. High, **Tyler Olheiser,** Comanche Jr. High.

"Selina Whitener is a good student and a good school citizen," said Janet Asbury. "She is attentive, hard-working and responsible. She treats others well and is helpful. She models well what the Student of the Month means and would be an excellent representative."

Selina Whitener

"Jordon Standridge is a young lady of excellent character. She not only works hard on her school work, but at anything she is given," said Joanna Ball. "She does all of this with a smile on her face, treating every person with respect and kindness. She has the respect of her peers as well as the adults she comes in contact. She is very deserving to be recognized as Chickasaw student of the Month."

"Tyler Olheiser is a very likeable kid," said Kelli Bolton. "He has a lot of talent and does very well in Algebra I. Tyler is very responsible and seems to be liked by all students. He is a good role model for the younger students."

Emily Nere

Students of the Month in the Pontotoc District are **Emily Nere,** Lexington Elementary, **Landri Wood**, Wapanucka Elementary, **Ilene Johnson**, Stratford Jr. High, **Chase Chamberlain,** Stratford Jr. High, **Ashley Johnny**, Byng High School, **Jonah Puller**, Byng High School.

Landri Wood

"Emily Nere is a straight A student. She was voted President of her class. She is always smiling and willing to led a hand to anyone who needs help," said Meredith Jones.

"Landri Wood is a hard worker who tries to do his best," said Mary Wingfield. "He is kind to others and always willing to share and help. He loves to be my helper in the classroom and on the playground."

"Ilene Johnson is an awesome fun loving young lady," said Angela Martin. "She is very involved in school activities as well as events outside of school. When she commits to something, she sticks with it, no matter how hard. She sttends the parent JOM meetings on a regular basic to understand the functions of JOM."

"Chase Chamberlain is a delightful young man," said Angela Martin. "He is always very well behaved and is always the first to include new students and those who may not have the same advantages as he. Chase is a very well rounded and well grounded young man and is very deserving of this award."

"I am nominating Ashley Johnny for Student of the Month, because she is a very hard working young lady," said Merry Monroe. "She is involved in numerous activities both in and out of school. Ashley is a joy to be around and is liked by both students and faculty alike. It is with great pleasure that I make this nomination. Ashley is a very deserving student."

"I have known Jonah Puller since he started kindergarten. Jonah is now a senior in high school and he has grown into a fine young man," said Merry Monroe. "He is a hard worker and always puts forth his best effort in whatever task is at hand. Jonah has worked in my office this year and I have found that he is willing to do any task that is required of him. "Jonah works hard to keep his grades up and he also is active in extra curricular activities. He is a member of the Native American club and a member of the high school basketball team. Jonah is active in the Chickasaw Nation Youth Council as well as his youth group at church. Jonah is well liked by both students and faculty. He is a very deserving young man and it is my pleasure to nominate him for Chickasaw High School Student of the Month."

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* Member of the Chickasaw Nation

Oral History: Darrell Walker, continued from page 18

didn't matter what I was doing. I loved to walk in the woods, just blending in, looking at whatever was around. In the same way, I could sit for hours in a tree, happy to be out in nature. I used to go deer hunting not to hunt really but just to be outside. Fishing is the same way. I don't even care if I catch any. Just to be out when the sun rises is enough. Do I do these things and get these feelings because I am Indian? I think so. It is part of being raised by traditional Chickasaws in the country.

***

Our life at Kullihoma was hard in some respects. We never had much money or many of the things that we call essentials today. Some social workers would have called my upbringing deprived. But, I had a very happy childhood because of the love and guidance of my grandparents. Like traditional Chickasaws, they had their own roles in life. Grandma was always a hard worker, in the house and out, from early 'til late. She cooked and washed our clothes in a tub with a wash board. Most of the money we had was from her housecleaning. Everybody liked her. She fixed the food, often biscuits, salt meat and fried potatoes, and made everyone feel welcome. She was the disciplinarian; not grandpa.

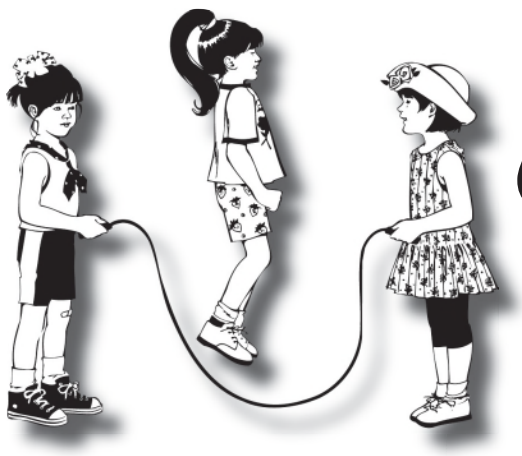
He was a skilled carpenter, but he didn't make money from it cause he was always helping folks or fixing up things around our house. We used to watch Monday night baseball on TV because he had been a pitcher. He showed me how to throw a curveball. I was a pitcher myself in high school. When I was 11, grandpa had his first stroke. Though he recovered, he suffered another stroke and a heart attack when I was in high school. This left him unable to walk and impaired his speech. He died in 1989, and I've realized since that I don't know much about his life before I was born. Grandpa just didn't talk much about himself or the past.

By the time I left Kullihoma for college in 1982, there were very few people still living out there. At the end of the 1980s, everyone was gone except Bobby Walker, who has been the caretaker. The family still owns five acres, split into nine parts, one parcel for each child and one acre for grandma. I think of it as Indian land. And I think part of that land is sacred, the cemetery is and the old stomp grounds, too. I don't know if you'd call Pauline and Simon's old house sacred. Maybe in the sense that grandpa held so many church services there. Part of it has historical significance as well. Part was constructed from the old Kullihoma school, going back to the 1930s.

Last year, I participated in the tribal reburial ceremonies of human remains and burial goods that had been excavated by archaeologists in Brentwood, Tennessee and Tupelo, Mississippi. Before I took part (in those ceremonies), people told me if I did, I'd have bad dreams. I didn't. I used to have conflicts between *stegini* and my Christian religion. But I have resolved this in my mind. God is in control of everything. In both places, I wondered if any of these bones we were rightfully reburying might have belonged to my ancestors. Later, I remembered that even out there isolated at Kullihoma we were part of the Chickasaw family. We are all related.

*****

Postscript: Darrell Walker has been a career counselor for the tribe for six years. He and his wife Johnna Walker have three children.



SHOW OFF YOUR PRIDE AND JOY!

We want to feature your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, etc. in a special "Pride and Joy" section in our April issue of the Chickasaw Times. Please send a photo with you special child's name, age and guardian information. Include a note about why they are your "Pride and Joy!"

We need to receive these by **March 22, 2006.** Please send to: **The *Chickasaw Times*, c/o Pride and Joy, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821.**

Please send a photo!
(We will return if you provide us with a return address.)

Child's Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian (you can also include grandparents): _____

_____

City/State: _____

This child (children) is my pride and joy because:
(include sheet of paper, if necessary)

_____

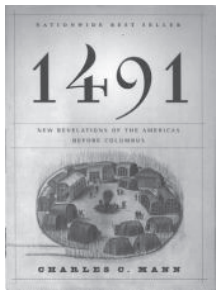
_____

_____

_____

Check it out . . . at the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Library!

Featured Selections of the Month



1491
New Revelations Of The Americas Before Columbus

Charles C. Mann

Back Cover: "Charles C. Mann takes us into a complex, fascinating, and unknown world, that of the Indians who lived in this hemisphere before Columbus. He gently demolishes entrenched myths, with impressive scholarship and with an elegance of style that makes his book a pleasure to read as well as a marvelous education."

--Howard Zinn

The Woman Who Watches Over The World

Linda Hogan

Back Cover: " Transcendent and cathartic, Hogan's indelible narrative ultimately celebrates love, the 'mighty force' that enables even the most harrowed not only to endure but to grow in spirit and in wisdom."

--*Booklist,* Starred Review

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Library
520 E. Arlington (Downstairs in the Miko Building, Chickasaw Nation Headquarters)
Ada OK 74820 (580) 436-2603, ext. 7301
Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Healthy activities offered during National Nutrition Month

The Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services Department is joining the American Dietetic Association (ADA) in recognizing March as National Nutrition Month.

According to the ADA, "National Nutrition Month®, created in 1973, promotes healthful eating by providing practical nutrition guidance and focusing attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound physical activity habits."

The tribal Nutrition Services department has planned a series of events throughout the month of March promoting healthy choices among the American Indian community. Events include:

• Displays featuring nutrition materials with complementary fruit at the Ada, Ardmore and Purcell Food Distribution Program sites, Ada and Ardmore Wellness Centers and all Chickasaw Nation WIC clinic sites.

• Colorful fruits and vegetables added to the menu at the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility cafeteria at no cost to customers.

• Cooking Classes for Kids from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14 at Ada Nutrition Services, on Wednesday, March 15 at Purcell Nutrition Services and on Thursday, March 16 at Ardmore Nutrition Services.

• "Ask a Dietitian" at the Ada Wellness Center on Wednesday, March 22, and the Ardmore Wellness Center on Thursday, March 23. Registered dietitians will be present to answer nutrition questions, help personalize the new Dietary Guidelines and Food Guide Pyramid and set up individual appointments.

The Nutrition Services department welcomes Chickasaw citizens to contact one of their registered dietitians. They are nutrition experts when it comes to weight management, disease prevention, diabetes management and other health-related issues. Registered dietitians also facilitate menu planning and provide breastfeeding support.

"My clients often just need a little help in figuring out what nutrition recommendations mean to them personally," said Chickasaw Nation Clinical Dietitian Adrienne Ferguson, MS, RD/LD. "I walk them through the dietary guidelines and food pyramid to help set goals for themselves and their families."

To find out more information about the National Nutrition Month events or to schedule a private appointment with a Chickasaw Nation registered dietitian, contact Whitney Hollingsworth, RD, LD, at (580) 421-6223.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Food and Nutrition Services Program and Descriptions

1) Get Fresh - A new and innovative Nutrition Education program provides cooking classes/demonstrations and health, nutrition and fitness guidance to FDP/Food Stamp eligible families. Services may be scheduled at any facility in the Chickasaw Nation.

2) Food and Nutrition Services provide nutrition education and counseling to inpatients and outpatients as well as food services to hospital patients, staff and visitors. The goal is to improve the nutritional status of Native American people to prevent chronic diseases and, to provide opportunities for their maximum involvement in defining and meeting their own health needs.

Services:

- Medical nutrition therapy
- Hotel-style room service for inpatients
- Healthy menu meal choices
- Nutrition education
- Cafeteria services for patients, visitors and staff

Special areas of nutrition counseling include:

- Diabetes prevention and management
- Prenatal nutrition
- Breastfeeding promotion and support
- Pediatric nutrition
- Personal goal-setting and planning for nutrition wellness

3) WIC is a nutrition program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture which is designed to provide supplemental foods, breastfeeding education and support and nutrition education to persons during critical growth periods of life:

- Infants and children up to five (5) years of age
- Pregnant women
- Breastfeeding women
- Women who have recently delivered a baby, up to six months following delivery

*See **Food and Nutrition Services,** page 31*

Directory initiated for tribal entrepreneurs

A directory of businesses owned by Chickasaws is being created to help promote economic opportunity for tribal entrepreneurs.

There is no cost to be listed in the directory, which will include the name of the business, contact and location information, as well as information on the goods or services provided by the business.

In addition to a printed directory, a web site will be created to enable electronic access to all information.

Chickasaws with a CDIB who would like to be listed in the directory should provide the information requested on the form below via email to vicky.gold@chickasaw.net or complete the form below and return to The Chickasaw Times, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821.

CHICKASAW NATION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Date of submission:_____ Regional Chickasaw Council:_____

Company Name:_____

Parent Company name (if applicable):_____

Mailing Address:_____

City, State, Zip:_____

Street Address:_____

Phone Number:_____ Fax Number:_____

Email address:_____

Owner's Name:_____ Owner's Title:_____

Other contact person:_____

Brief description of product/services (be specific):_____

Ownership Information:

List all shareholders, officers directors or outside firms that hold an interest in the company. List the percentage of the business they own and list if they possess a CDIB and Tribal affiliation.:

Name/Title	Percent Ownership	CDIB	Tribal Affiliation

Championship golf course near completion at WinStar

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - Construction of a new 18-hole golf course at the tribe's WinStar Casinos is near completion. Grass is planted and play is tentatively scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall, according to golf course superintendent Charles Wise.

"A great golf course is an essential element in creating the type of destination resort facility we envision at WinStar," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. "We believe this D.A. Weibring Signature Design course will attract top golfers from a wide area."

One definition of resort listed in Webster's New World Dictionary is "a place to which people go often, as on vacation."

A top-notch golf course can be an indispensable component of a resort, particularly one which may attract not only individuals, but corporate groups, according to Sam Swanson, president of D.A. Weibring/GRI, designer of the course.

"A golf course can provide widespread exposure and create an image for a resort property that can be very beneficial in marketing to individuals or group meetings," Swanson wrote in an article published in *Indian Gaming* magazine.

D.A. Weibring Golf Resources Group has designed a number of highly acclaimed golf courses in the United States and Japan. The company designed the Bridlewood Golf Club in Flower Mound, Texas, which was rated the #1 Luxury Golf Course by Avid Golfer Magazine in 2004.

Another notable course designed by the company is the Tournament Players Club at Deere Run, site of the annual PGA John Deere Classic tournament. Located near Chicago, the course was recognized by *Golf Digest Magazine* in 2000 as the eighth best new daily fee club.

Steve Wolfard, the Golf Architect for D.A. Weibring Golf Resources Group, will coordinate the D.A. Weibring Signature Design. Weibring, a five-time winner on the PGA Tour and a two time Champions Tour winner, will be very involved in finalizing the strategy of the 18-hole layout.

Wadsworth Golf Construction was chosen as the general contractor and should complete construction by mid-summer, with the grow-in of the golf course to follow.

The course will feature Tif sportgrass Bermuda fairways and Green Grand Prix Bent Grass greens and will measure from 4,992 to 7,300 yards, depending on tee box chosen.

Approximately 50 white sand bunkers will dot the course, which also includes more than 70 acres of native area.

The 18,000-square-foot clubhouse will include pro shop, snack bar, locker rooms, cart rentals and meeting/gathering area.

WinStar's 190,000-square-foot facility offers electronic gaming, paper-play bingo and off-track betting, as well as three restaurants, a deli and a 1,200 seat theater.

More than 2,200 electronic games are available in three distinct venues, including the recently opened and lavishly appointed *Palace*, as well as the *Center Ring* and *Mariachi* rooms.

Horse racing fans enjoy the flexibility of the off track betting showplace, which allows expansion from the normal capacity of approximately 100 seats to more than 1,200 for big race days such as the Breeder's Cup.

Guests can choose from a variety of menus in four restaurants with total seating capacity of more than 500.

Top flight entertainment including music stars such as B.B. King, Kenny Rodgers and Gary Allen are featured at the 1,200 seat theater.

In addition to the Microtel Inn and Suites, which opened in June 2005, plans for the site include a larger hotel and convention center, family entertainment center and RV park.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Food and Nutrition Services,

continued from page 30

4) Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides participants in the Chickasaw Nation Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC), Native Americans 60 years of age or older and 100 percent disabled Chickasaw citizens with checks to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets and farm stands during the summer and fall. Benefits include nutrition education, food demonstrations and $30 of FMNP checks. Farmers' markets and farm stand locations can be found throughout the Chickasaw Nation boundaries in Ada, Ardmore, Durant, McAlester, Noble, Oklahoma City and Purcell.

5) The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides Native Americans 60 years of age and over with checks to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets and farm stands during the summer and fall. Benefits include nutrition education, food demonstrations and $100 of FMNP checks. Two categories of individuals are eligible for the program:

- Native American Seniors 60 and older
- Chickasaw Seniors and fully disabled individuals as determined by SSI

6) Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) is an alternative to the Food Stamp program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, designed to promote the health and well-being of the Indian population by raising nutrition levels among low-income households. Benefits include nutrition education, food demonstrations, cooking classes and food packages with a wide variety (over 80 choices) including fresh produce and frozen meats. FDP stores are open Monday through Friday in the Ada, Ardmore and Purcell Nutrition Centers. Deliveries are made to Marlow and Achille once per month.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Registered Dietitian Whitney Hollingsworth, RD, demonstrates how to prepare a healthy snack at a "Heart Healthy" cooking class.

It's TAX Time
Lisa S. Huling, C.P.A.
Professional and Affordable
119 N. Broadway, Suite 15, In the Ada Mini Mall
Convenient parking on west side.
Open Mon. - Fri., 9-5:30, Saturdays 9:00-Noon and by appointment.
• Free Electronic Filing
• Rapid Return (RAL 1-4 days)
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• Tax preparation fees can be deducted from your refund
• File your own taxes online at www.1040.com/YOUFILEONLINE
Walk-ins Welcome!!!
10% off for New Clients

New Indian bank CEO Colbert seeks pan-tribal involvement

J.D. Colbert

DENVER - The new president and chief executive of the Native American Bank wants the Denver financial institution to live up to the mission its name implies - a bank run by American Indians for Indians of all bands and tribes.

"I feel like I am the last missing piece to facilitate it becoming a true Native American bank," J.D. Colbert said.

About 20 primarily Western and Alaskan tribes back the bank, which got its start in 2001 with a $12.5 million investment and a goal of funneling capital and promoting economic development across Indian country.

The tribes are betting that Colbert, one of only a handful of American Indian bankers in the country, is the person who can make it happen.

So how does Colbert plan to take a small $63 million bank at 999 18th St. with two branches in Montana and give it a reach that affects lives from rural reservations to more heavily populated native communities across the West?

"There are certain services we can provide from a distance," Colbert said. "But we can't fully reach our potential unless we have a presence."

Colbert wants the bank to add more branches in a variety of places, which will require buying other banks or launching bank charters in other states.

He also wants to see the bank, which primarily provides small-business and tribal-enterprise loans, broaden into other financial services, including venture capital and captive insurance.

"We have an opportunity as time goes on to be a fully diversified financial-services organization, more than just a bank."

To achieve those goals, the bank needs more capital, and that will require bringing in other tribes as investors.

"We not only want their equity, but we want to be their bank," he said.

Colbert, who is Chickasaw and Creek, grew up in Oklahoma. He helped the Chickasaw Nation start Bank2, an Oklahoma City bank where he worked before taking the job in Denver.

He has worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs loan guarantee program, visiting more than 50 reservations, and founded the North American Native Bankers Association to bring tribally owned banks together.

Although his Oklahoma connections aren't why Colbert was hired, they are something the bank's board hopes he can use to grow the bank.

"He is well known there, and it would be to our advantage to use his expertise," said board member Lewis Anderson, president and chief executive of the Woodlands National Bank of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Onamia, Minn.

Native American Bank offers an attractive option for tribes that would like to get into financial services but fear going it in on their own, said Taylor Keen, a business acquisitions official for the Cherokee Nation in Tulsa.

"J.D. is very well liked here in Oklahoma. He is an established voice and well respected within the five civilized tribes in Oklahoma," he said.

Abandoned at 6 months of age by his birth father, Colbert's mother raised him and three other siblings on a nursing assistant's salary. Colbert went on to obtain a master's degree from Harvard, serve as a bank regulator with the Federal Reserve and administer the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

His rising above the odds reflects in a small way the transformation undergoing larger portions of Indian Country.

Oklahoma tribes that 35 years ago operated out of mobile trailers with jerry-built power lines are now multimillion-dollar enterprises, Colbert said.

"The economy in Indian Country has never been stronger," he said.

And that newfound wealth among some tribes is driving the creation of banks, a trend that began in the late 1980s.

Tribes with casino revenues sought to diversify from gaming and gain control of credit so they could provide home mortgages to their members and finance other business ventures.

More recently, tribes with petroleum, uranium and other resources have benefited from a spike in commodity prices. Other tribes have become adept at winning federal contracts.

A lawsuit by Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund and a co-founder of the Native American Bank could bring billions more into tribal coffers. Her lawsuit alleges the federal government mismanaged Indian trust funds and seeks a $27.5 billion settlement.

Most tribally owned banks have played down their ownership, in part to appeal to a broader base of customers. Although it will do business with all creditworthy customers, the Native American Bank wears its name proudly.

Colbert said he once thought the best strategy was to plant numerous small, tribally owned banks. Now he see a Native American Bank with numerous branches as the way to reach underserved markets.

Colbert, 50, expects he will need 10 to 15 years for the bank's vision to take hold as it gradually builds the consensus and forges the coalitions it needs.

"Indian Country is large and profound," Keen said. If anyone can help bring it together, Colbert is that person, he added.

Staff writer Aldo Svaldi can be reached at 303-820-1410 or asvaldi@denverpost.com.

Living History players read to kids

Students in Ms. Nikki McElhannon's preschool classroom at the Ada Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center recently participated in the 2006 Scholastic Book Clubs *ClassroomsCare* reading program. With the help of the Chickasaw Nation Living History Players, parents and teachers, the three- and four-year-old students read a total of 100 books by the February 17 deadline. Because the class completed its goal, Scholastic Book Clubs donated 100 new books in their name to children's charities across the United States. Because of their accomplishment, Ms. McElhannon's class is listed in the *ClassroomsCare* Hall of Fame.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Three-year-old Cheyenne Adair was awarded a "Reading Is Giving" certificate for helping her class reach its goal by reading at home with her family. Thanks to the hard work of Cheyenne and many children like her, up to one million books will be donated to children in need.

Pam Aguilar, of the Living History Players, spends her lunch break reading to the children in Ms. McElhannon's preschool class. The Living History Players helped the students reach their goal of reading 100 books by February 17. Ms. Aguilar is a Community Health Representative (CHR) for the Chickasaw Nation.

THAT FISH PLACE

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

FISH	OKRA
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BOILED SHRIMP	COLE SLAW
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NEW OWNERS
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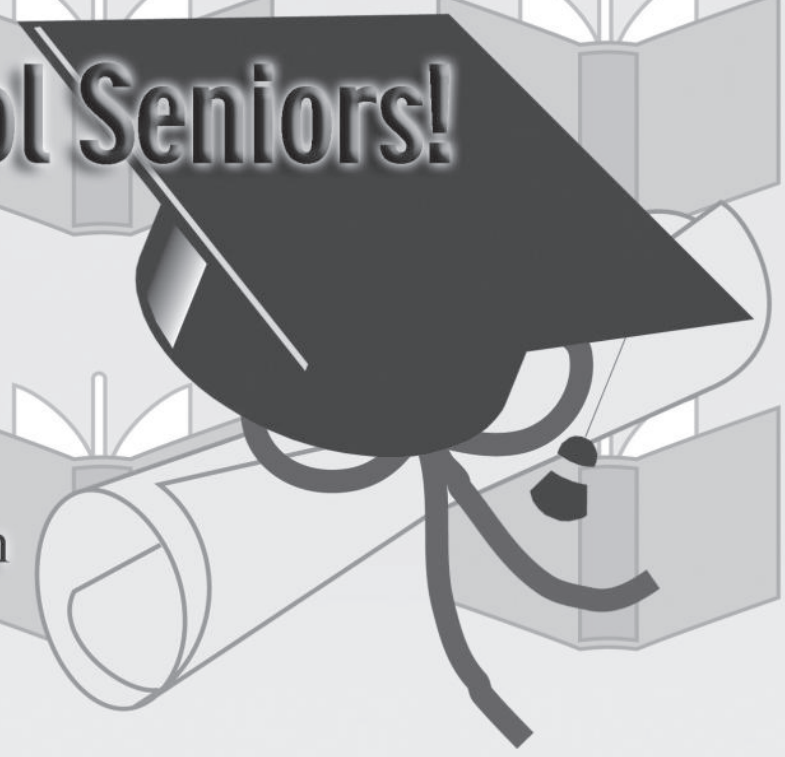
"COME AND EAT WITH OUR FAMILY FOR THE BEST FISH AROUND!"

It is time once again to feature our Chickasaw High School Seniors!



The *Chickasaw Times* would like to congratulate each of you on your accomplishment by featuring you in our May 2006 issue.

Your biography and photo will appear in this special issue if you complete the form below and mail it to us with a photo no later than ***Friday, April 21, 2006.***

Senior Profile Form

Please include return address with photo

Name _____

Home town _____

High School _____

Parents/guardians _____

(If parents are deceased or divorced, please indicate)

Grandparents _____

Information about graduate *(include school activities, extracurricular activities, future plans, etc.)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please mail your completed form to
The *Chickasaw Times*, 2612 East Arlington, Suite B, Ada, OK 74820

HONOR YOUR GRADUATE

Conservation Service offering incentives to create wildlife 'buffer strips'

When it comes to providing benefits for wildlife, buffer strips are a perfect case-in-point on how a little bit can add up to a lot.

"The acres may seem small — maybe just one or two acres — on a farm-to-farm basis. But when you add them all together, you start talking about really making a change in the landscape," said Clay Horton, Tribal Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

In some areas buffers can be more than just important parcels of habitat. Buffers offer the only wildlife habitat where extensive continuous cropping takes place. Buffers strips may offer the only undisturbed nesting cover available to wildlife, Horton said.

"Buffer strips and shelter belts are some of the most important and positive improvements a landowner can do on a farm. Both buffer strips and shelter belts can provide winter food, cover, and migration routes for wildlife. Adequate winter cover is a limiting factor for wildlife populations in many agricultural areas. "I encourage the use of diverse, warm season native perennial grasses to provide nesting and thermal cover," says Horton.

The value of buffer strips to wildlife goes beyond giving animals a place to settle. Buffer strips provide "migration corridors" for wildlife to move between larger pieces of contiguous habitat. Buffer strips around streams are proven havens for a number of bird species. Buffer strips along streams are also important habitat for aquatic fur bearing species. Fish are also benefactors of improved water quality from buffers. Cleaning up the water improves the overall health of the stream meaning there are more organisms for fish feed on.

Landowners have many options available for assistance in establishing buffers for wildlife habit and water quality protection, one of which is the Continuous signup Conservation Reserve Program (Continuous CRP). Establishing buffers through the Continuous CRP is a simple, possibly lucrative and cost-efficient way to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Continuous CRP is simple because the signup is always open and the rules are streamlined compared to traditional CRP.

To be eligible, you must have owned the land for the previous year. Cropland is eligible if it was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in two of the last five crop years. It also must be physically and legally capable of being cropped. The land does not have to be highly erodible. Marginal pasture suitable for use as a riparian buffer is also eligible. This includes any land along streams or rivers that is grazed, whether previously seeded to grass or not. Most land covered by an expiring CRP contract determined suitable for a CRP buffer practice is likewise eligible. "The offer must meet requirements and include eligible buffer practices," said Gene Overturf, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director for Pontotoc County.

Financial incentives for installing buffers include signing bonuses and more money for installing and maintaining conservation practices. The incentives are enhancements designed by USDA to protect more environmentally sensitive land. The incentives include:

1. an up-front signing bonus incentive of $10 per acre for every full year the contract covers. This amounts to $100 to $150 per acre at the start of the contract to help defray up-front installation costs for filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, field windbreaks, shelter belts, and living snow fences.

2. a payment incentive equal to 40 percent of the practice installation cost of all continuous CRP practices, including contour buffer strips and shallow water areas for wildlife. This is in addition to the 50 percent cost-share paid by USDA for establishing certain approved practices.

3. increases in maintenance rate incentives for certain practices involving tree planting, fencing, or water development, and updated marginal pastureland rental rates nationwide to better reflect the market value of these lands. In most cases, rental rates in Iowa increased slightly with the update.

4. an increase of 20 percent on the average widths of filter strips and riparian buffers to allow farmers to square off field and buffer boundaries for more efficient farming.

"We're pleased to have more incentives to attract more farmers to the program. Unlike the regular CRP program, the continuous signup program allows producers to enroll eligible highly environmentally sensitive land at any time, without waiting for a signup period or competing against other offers," says Overturf, "and NRCS encourages landowners to consider buffers as part of their conservation system."

Conservation buffers protect streams and rivers by keeping pollutants from entering streams, providing cleaner drinking water, enhancing recreation, and improving wildlife habitat. "When all the potential buffer strips are added up, you start talking about miles of continuous ribbons of wildlife cover which is bound to have a positive impact," Horton said. Landowners with questions and/or an interest in establishing buffers should contact their local NRCS, Conservation District, or Farm Service Agency (FSA) office at their local USDA Service Center. You can find office locations and phone numbers on the internet at www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov or www.fsa.usda.gov and going to the "Conservation" link.

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Upcoming OU health careers program open to Indian high school seniors, first-year college students

NORMAN, Okla. - The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is now accepting applications for its 2006 Headlands Indian Health Careers Program, to be conducted June 4 through July 29, 2006, on the OU Norman campus.

American Indian high school seniors and first-year college students that are interested in pursuing a career in the health professions are encouraged to apply for this intense eight-week enrichment program offering mini-block courses in calculus, chemistry, physics, and biology. These courses are designed to increase the student's knowledge and prepare them for the required college-level math and science coursework in pre-health programs.

Students again will gain experience in the laboratory, strengthen their communication and writing skills, and attend interactive presentations at the OU Health Sciences Center colleges of Public Health, Allied Health, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing. Field excursions to health clinics and hospitals also are included.

Travel, lodging and meal expenses will be provided for each student accepted into the program.

Applications for the Headlands program can be found at www.headlands.ouhsc.edu or call (405) 271-2250. Application deadline is March 15, 2006.

The Headlands program is sponsored by the Oklahoma Native American EXPORT Center with funding from the National Center of Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.

12th Annual Haskell Commencement Indian Men's Fast-Pitch Tournament

May 13-14, 2006
Clinton Lake Sports Complex
Lawrence, Kansas

Entry Fee: $180.00
MONEY ORDER ONLY!

AWARDS: (Subject to change)
Championship: $700 + Pullovers
Runner-up: $500 + T-Shirts
Third Place: $300 + T-Shirts
All-Tournament Team: T-Shirts
M.V.P. – Bat Bag/Jacket

Entry Deadline: MAY 8, 2006

For Tournament Information:
Email or Call us!
Angela Barnett – abarnett@haskell.edu
Kerry Girty – kgirty@haskell.edu
Robert Berryhill Jr. – robertberryhill@hotmail.com
Angela Barnett: 785.749.8402 Work
Kerry Girty: 785.832.6600 Work
Robert Berryhill Jr.: 785.841.1292 Home

Minutes, continued from page 2

by Ms. Briggs.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR23-031 carried unanimously.

Ms. Green concluded her report.

(G) HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT by Chairman Wilson Seawright

Mr. Seawright announced that Chickasaw language classes will be begin in February in Purcell, Ada, and Ardmore, and the Chickasaw Fluent speakers will meet February 10 at the Marie Bailey, in Ada. The Annual Stomp Dance will be held February 4 at the Headquarter's gym. Mr. Seawright also noted an old cemetery was located south of the Burney Institute where Chickasaws were buried. Once the sale is finalized on the property, the cemetery will be cleaned and information gathered from the head stones. Wendell Johnston, who is well versed in the local cemetery and the Burney Institute, will be invited to speak at one of the committee meetings. Mr. Seawright concluded his report.

(H) ELECTION RULES AND REGULATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT by Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 23-030, Declaration of Vacancy and Request for Special Election

This resolution declares that a vacancy exists on the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature and that the vacancy creates an emergency. Further, this resolution requests the Governor call a special election to fill such vacancy and sets the schedule for the special election and any run-off election.

A motion was made by Mr. Woods to approve GR23-030. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wanda Blackwood Scott.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR23-030 carried unanimously.

Mr. Woods concluded his report.

AGENDA ITEM #7 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

There was no new business to report.

Mr. James Humes made comments regarding the Listening Conference and reiterated his request for the Legislative Session to be changed to Saturday.

Mr. Mike Watson thanked the Legislature for approving the resolution regarding the clothing grant and the tribute to Legislator Mitch Sperry. He also commented on the Listening Conference, per capita payments and rules regarding the Elderly Energy Assistant Program.

AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Briggs, Secretary Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Prepared by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Resolutions, continued from page 6

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-044

Oil and Gas Lease in Pittsburg County

(McAlester Watershed)

EXPLANATION: This resolution approves an Oil and Gas Lease in favor of Chesapeake Exploration Partnership, P.O. Box 18496, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73154-0496, who submitted an acceptable bid of $827.16 per acre for a total bonus of $132,345.60, of which the Chickasaw Nation shall receive $33,086.40 on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations described as SE/4 of Section 23, Township 6 North, Range 14 East, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, containing 160.00 acres, more or less, for a primary term of three (3) years with a $3.00 per acre annual rental for a total of $480.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $120.00 per annum, and a royalty rate of 18.75%.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman

Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 23-045

Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property, in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, described as: Lot 8, Block 101 Original Townsite of Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, together with all improvements thereon, if any, in their present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor The Chickasaw Nation

Presented By: Judy Goforth Parker, Chairman Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Mooniene Ogee, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

Permanent Resolution Number 23-002

Amendments to Title 8 of the Chickasaw Nation Code

(Chickasaw Election Rules and Regulations)

Explanation: This resolution amends Title 8 and Title 2 of the Chickasaw Nation Code pertaining to the Election Rules and Regulations. The Election Commission and Election Secretary/Tribal Registrar are in agreement with the included changes.

Requested By: Steve Woods, Chairman Election Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee

Presented By: Steve Woods, Chairman Election Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee

As amended

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, Wilson Seawright, Steve Woods, Scott Colbert

No votes: Mary Jo Green, Mooniene Ogee

Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT HUMAN RESOUCES AT 888.814.4780

Corporate office location:
2020 Arlington, Suite 6
Ada, OK 74820

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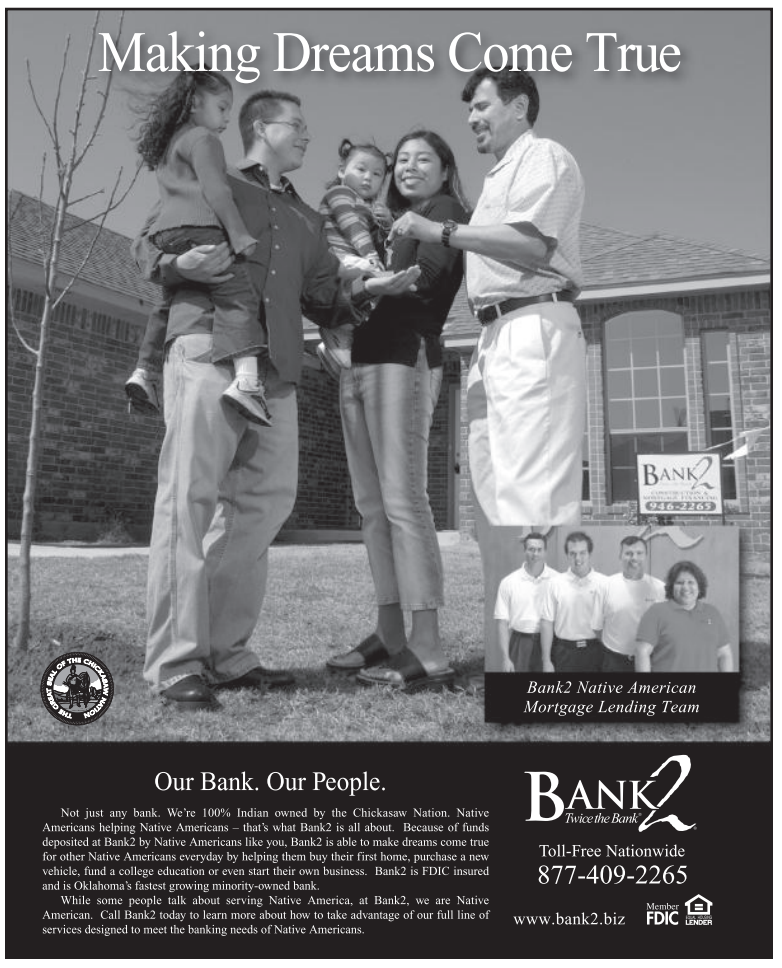
Probate Clerks, Web Developer, CA Certified Unicenter Engineer, Quality Assurance Specialist, Technical Writer/Editor, Data Clerks, Programmer Analyst, Management Support, Key Entry Operators, Systems Engineer, Data Examiner, Cobol Programmer, Business Analyst, Lead Systems Analyst, Functional Analyst, Portal Web sphere and Oracle SQL Programmers

CONSTRUCTION
Superintendents, Project Managers, Senior Project Manager, Project Engineers and Estimators

MANUFACTURING
Laser Operators, Shipping, Press Break, Machinist, Senior Engineer and Quality Control



Jolene (Alexander) Bardin

Jolene (Alexander) Bardin, 42, of Ravia, Okla., died Jan. 25, 2006. Services were Jan. 28, 2006 at First Indian Baptist Church of Tishomingo, Okla., with Rev. Kenneth Lewis officiating. Interment was in Ravia Cemetery at Tishomingo.

Mrs. Bardin was born Feb. 22, 1963 at Talihina, Okla.

She graduated from Tishomingo High School and attended Murray State College at Tishomingo. She married Charles Everett Bardin May 13, 1993 at Tishomingo. She was a homemaker and affiliated with the Baptist church. She liked sewing and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Lee Baken; a brother, Dennis Alexander; stepfather, John Wayne Alexander; grandparents, Lillian and Deseth Baken, Sarah Hawkins Alexander, Walt and Minnie Alexander, Cornelius C. Alexander; and a niece, Lynn Ann Boston.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Bardin; mother, Delores (Alexander) Alexander; a son, Gabriel Alexander; and a daughter, Leah Durishia Alexander, all of Ravia; sisters, Nancy Ann Boston, Tishomingo, Lila Durishia Francis, Sand Springs, Okla., Cynthia Nail, Ada, Okla., and Bobbie Dean Baken, and Bonnie Baken, both of Lawton, Okla.

Bearers were, Gabriel Alexander, Christopher Baken, Billy Fleming, Thomas Henry, Heath Chappell and David E. Lewis. Honorary bearers were, George Baken, Tommy Haney, Jonathan Hotema, Timothy Baken, Matthew Alexander, Michael Baken and Jerry Johnson.

Donna Strickland

Donna Strickland died Feb. 19, 2006, to join her husband, Augustus "Gus" Strickland, an original Dawes Roll member, who preceded her in death in 1988.

Mrs. Strickland was born at Byars, Okla., October 16, 1911.

She married Gus Strickland Dec. 3, 1929. They led a wonderful life together and were always proud of his Chickasaw heritage.

She is survived by two daughters, Mignon Adams, of Philadelphia, and Devea Mestel, of Mt. Vernon, Ill.; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is March 11, 2006, at Covenant Village, 9221 West Broward Blvd., Plantation, FL 33324.

Jimmy Lee Christian

Graveside services for Jimmy Lee Christian, 52, of Conroe, Texas, were Jan. 23, 2006, at Broken Bow City Cemetery in Broken Bow, Okla.

Mr. Christian was born Jan. 21, 1953, in Tomball, Texas and died Jan. 19, 2006, in Conroe.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jimmie and Wanda Christian.

He is survived by a son, Terry Neil Castleberry; step-daughter, Angela Ramirez; sisters, Shelia Atkinson, Virginia Ann Satterwhite, Cheryl Reynolds and Candace Moody and husband Joshua; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was especially close to Uncle James, who was his hero.

Pallbearers were Lloyd Hagan, David Hagan, Robert Chumley, Thomas Shannon, Kristin Reynolds and Rochelle Reynolds.

Lemuel "Bud" Burris, III

Lemuel C. "Bud" Burris, III, 83, died January 29, 2006 at Nacogdoches, Texas.

Mr. Burris was born June 15, 1933 at Tishomingo, Okla., to Dora (Farley) Burris and Lemuel Colbert Burris, II.

Services were Jan. 31, 2006 at Salem Cemetery with James Covington officiating.

Mr. Burris took pride in his Chickasaw heritage. He always noted that he was 1/8 Indian.

He was a graduate of Tishomingo (OK) High School. He served his country during WWII as a member of the U.S. Air Force. He was a retired chemical plant operator for Phillips Chemical of Pasadena, Texas. He loved to tinker with cars, and the banter of politics.

He was a member of the Baptist faith.

Lewis Lee Barker

Lewis Lee Barker, age 79, died January 11, 2006, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant, Oklahoma.

Mr. Lewis was born August 30, 1926 in Albany, Okla., to Thomas M. and Vera Cain Barker. He was the grandson of Dr. P.L. Cain, an early day Bryan County physician. He was a descendant of Levi Colbert and very proud of his Chickasaw heritage.

At age six his family moved to Durant where he attended school and graduated from Durant High School. He served in the Army Air Corps near the end of World War II and was honorably discharged at the end of the war. Mr. Lewis attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he earned his bachelor of science degree. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

He married Laura Lee Brackett, of Boswell, Okla., in 1949. They were married in Roundup, Montana where he was working as a geologist. They lived in Hobbs, N.M. from 1952 to 1958, where their first son, David, was born.

In 1958, Dr. Allan Shearer invited him to join the Southeastern faculty in the Physical Science Department, where he taught for 30 years. Upon his retirement from Southeastern in 1988 as Professor of Physics, he was promoted to the rank of Emeritus Professor by the Board of Regents. He was a lifetime learner and attended many conferences to increase his knowledge and skill. Among the many schools he attended are Penn State, Cornell, MIT, Michigan State, Colorado State, and Trinity University.

He also spent a summer as a guest science professor at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he had the honor to interact with Dr. Edward Teller, one of the pioneers of America's nuclear program.

In 1958 while living in Hobbs, he became a Deacon of the First Baptist Church. He was a faithful servant of God and held numerous leadership roles including Sunday School Director and teacher at the First Baptist Church of Durant.

He will forever be remembered for his Christian life, his dedication as a professor, for his quit wit and gentle spirit, and for his love and devotion to his wife, children, and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and four brothers Tommy, Gene, Phil and Billy.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Laura, of the home; his sons David, of Durant, and John, of Norman, Okla.; six grandchildren, Aubrey, Timothy, Emily, Natalee, Reed and Riley; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services were Jan. 14, 2006 at the First Baptist Church of Durant. Burial followed in Restland Cemetery in Boswell.

Pallbearers were Steve Barker, Allan Barker, Tom Barker, Jim Barker, James Hedrick, Bart Rustin, James Dalton, and James Britton. Members of the First Baptist Church Adult 3 Sunday School were honorary pallbearers.

Jerry Allen Batson

Services for Jerry Allen Batson, 55, Sanger, Texas were Jan. 20 at Clagg Funeral Home Chapel with Chaplain Danny Mack officiating. Interment was in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Mr. Batson died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006 at Sanger.

He was born July 3, 1950 in Sulphur, Okla., to Roy Batson and Doris Virginia Goforth Batson,

He married Wynema White- born May 30, 1980 at Gainesville, Texas.

He grew up in Sulphur and graduated from Sulphur High School. He lived in Ardmore, Okla., and Davis, Okla., several years before moving to Texas in 1985. He attended Rose State College, Midwest City, Okla.

He was a general contractor. He was a member of the Church of the Rock in Carrollton, Texas. He also had served as Sulphur-Davis Elks Lodge manager in the late 1970's.

He is survived by his wife, Wynema, of the home, Sanger, Texas; four daughters, Jera Batson, Rainey Batson, both of Sanger, Texas, Tiffany Moore, Flowermound, Texas and Cassie Batson, Norman, Okla.; two sons, Nate McCoy, Winchester, Virginia, and Brock Batson, Leesburg, Virginia; his parents, Roy and Virginia Batson, Davis; a brother, Kenneth Batson, Davis; a sister, Linda Kay Huckabaa, Choctaw, Okla.; and five grandchildren, Dylan Moore, Mack Moore, Dalton Jared Batson, Skyley Jo Batson and Ashton Whortham.

He was proceeded in death by a grandson, Dalton Montana Moore.

Family members and friends served as pallbearers.